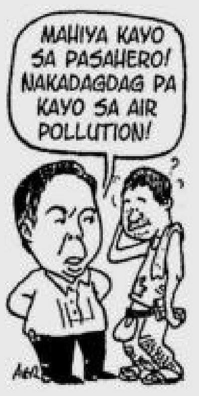
Militant labor group identifies 3 more sweatshops

Story on PAGE A2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BF targets untidy bus conductors

By Leila B. Salaverria

ARE you a bus driver or conductor?

Take a shower and brush your teeth before going to work.

Make sure your uni-

BF TARGETS/ A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Laguna mayor shot

MAYOR Leon C. Arcillas of Sta. Rosa, Laguna, survived an attempt on his life last night in Barangay Tagapo. Supt. Edwin Corvera, Laguna police director, said Arcillas was in his Isuzu Hi-lander when a gunman on a motorbike fired seven shots, hitting the mayor once in the right thigh. Arcillas was rushed to the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Hospital in Biñan where he is in stable condition. *C.V. Esguerra, and D. Mallari and M. Ramos, PDI S. Luzon Bureau*

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph   Monday, July 7, 2003 ★★★ 70 pages / 7 sections / vol. 18 / no. 209   P15   website: www.inq7.net

Yorac blocks Maceda seat in San Miguel

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

THE PROSPECT of former Ambassador Ernesto Maceda sitting as a government-appointed director of San Miguel Corp. has roused Haydee Yorac out of her sickbed.

"Leave it to us to nominate!" the chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government exclaimed, flashing her trademark glare.

Yorac, back in fighting form after two dramatic bouts with death, emphasized that Maceda, chair of the Nationalist People's Coalition, was intimately associated with Eduardo Cojuangdo Jr., NPC founder and chair emeritus.

Cojuangco is the principal defendant in the coconut levy cases.

Yorac said the government "is seeking recovery of ill-gotten wealth amassed by Cojuangco, including shares of stock in SMC," the food and beverage conglomerate sequestered by the government since 1986.

By nominating a person considered an "alter ego of Cojuangco" to represent government interests in SMC, the government would be negating its legal position—that Cojuangco had amassed ill-gotten wealth, including SMC shares of stock, she said.

"We will be contradicting the public policy enshrined in the Constitution mandating the State to take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption," Yorac said.

The government currently has seven seats in the 15-member SMC board, including one each for the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System.

A seat for Maceda would mean giving one more to Cojuangco, Yorac added. Cojuangco controls three seats.

The NPC, the second-largest party in Congress, is allied with the Lakas-CMD administration party. Last week, President Macapagal-Arroyo met briefly with Cojuangco at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City, fueling speculation—something Malacañang strongly denied—that a political accommodation had been reached.

In a letter addressed to Bernardino Abes, chair of the Search Committee under the Of-

YORAC/ A21

NPA drug links raw info, says PDEA exec

By Christian V. Esguerra, Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Juliet Javellana

DOES President Macapagal-Arroyo know something the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency doesn't?

A ranking official of the PDEA yesterday admitted that the lead agency in the war on drugs does not yet have hard evidence to prove that the communist New People's Army maintains marijuana plantations.

"There are reports but all of them are still raw intelligence information," the official told the INQUIRER on condition of anonymity. "We're still in the process of verifying them. They're not yet validated."

But Ms Macapagal's statement on Saturday, accusing NPA rebels of growing marijuana after international funding dried up, has already affected the stalled peace talks with the communist-led National Democratic Front.

Lead government negotiator Silvestre Bello III said the July 31 target for restarting the talks had become iffy. "The President will not make that statement if she has no evidence," he said.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the peace panel would have to consider whether to push through with formal peace talks at the end of this month and weigh this against the President's declaration.

"We are not closing the door to

NPA/ A19

Woman's father says bishop 'divine' in-law

By Joyce Mejillano and Gil Francis Arevalo
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—After the initial shock, Porfirio Rances now only feels pride for his daughter Christine, who had revealed an affair with Bishop Crisostomo Yalung.

He also told the INQUIRER it was a certain honor for him to have a "divine and respected son-in-law."

"Well, as far as the condition of Christine is concerned, she's very much OK as compared to the ill conditions and bestial experience she had with her previous husband," Rances said.

Yalung, who resigned as Antipolo bishop and is now in the Vatican, has not publicly acknowledged any relationship with Christine.

Rances, 76, said his family was always worried about Christine when she was still living with her

WOMAN'S/ A21

ART ATTACK. Young artists mix fun and colors as they express their ideas of peace on a kilometer-long canvas on Manila's Baywalk along Roxas Boulevard. ERIK ARAZAS

Children paint for peace on kilometer-long canvas

By Eline Santos
Junior Inquirer

FROM thousands of young minds, thousands of ideas of peace.

Throngs of children yesterday came to the renovated Baywalk area along Roxas Boulevard in Manila to paint their ideas on a kilometer-long canvas that organizers hoped would make it to the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest finger painting yet.

Currently, the record for the largest finger painting stands at 257 square meters, held by 43 students from the Lawrence Technological University in Southfield, Michigan.

Doves, people holding hands, red fish swimming in a green ocean, a farm, and more peace ideas came in color as the young artists interpreted the "International Day-Children Now! 3" theme of "Peace through the Eyes of the Children."

Organizers said the event took place simultaneously in Poland, Russia, Germany, Vietnam and Australia. It was hosted by the Unesco Club of Metro Manila, together with

CHILDREN/ A19

Mobile phone ring tones now mega-business

SINGAPORE—Downloading personalized ring tones, games and Top 40 pop hits onto mobile phones has become the craze in Asia and it has rapidly developed into a multibillion-dollar industry.

And the boom is expected to skyrocket as technology improves over the next five years, analysts said.

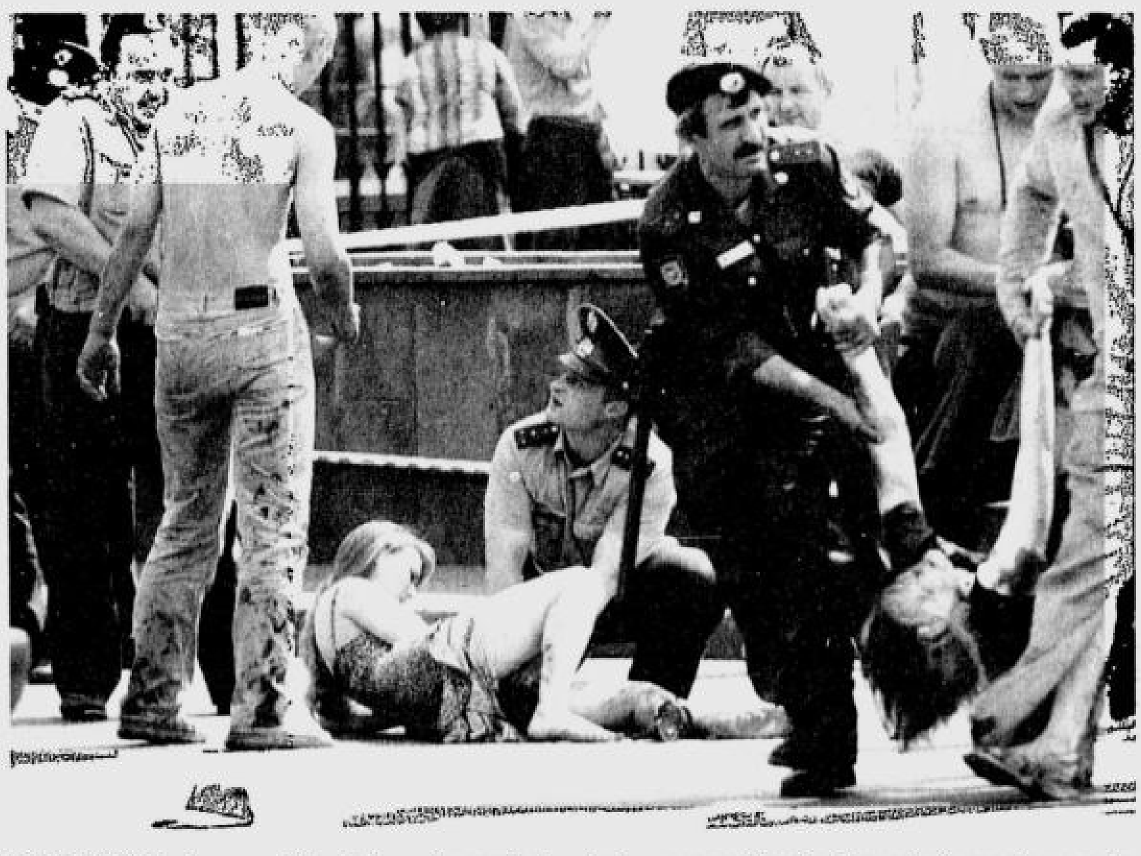
From little more than an insignificant fad five years ago, the Asian downloading market is now worth $1.3 billion, according to communication analysts Pyramid Research.

With the combined effects of more mobile phone users and improving technology offering more attractive downloading options, Pyramid telecommunications analyst Connie Hsu said the industry would be worth $3.6 billion by 2008.

"We expect the mobile data market to grow robustly in Asia," Hsu told Agence France Presse.

MOBILE/ A20

Suicide blasts hit Moscow rock concert; 15 dead



POLICEMEN help some of the victims of an explosion during a concert by the Crematorium rock group in Moscow. At least 15 people were killed, including two female suicide bombers. AFP

MOSCOW—Two women strapped with explosives blew themselves up at a Moscow outdoor rock festival crowded with tens of thousands of fans on Saturday, leaving at least 15 people dead and reviving fears that rebels are intent on bringing the Chechen war to the Russian capital.

Bodies lay splayed on the pavement, surrounded by pools of blood. Emergency response officers covered them with black plastic garbage bags.

"Everybody thought it was fireworks," said one young concertgoer interviewed by Rossiya television. He said he was standing just meters away from the entrance when the blast went off. "And then I saw a girl lying there, dead."

Two victims of the suicide bomb blasts at the rock festival died overnight, bringing the death toll to 15, including the two women who detonated their strapped-on explosives, a city health official said Sunday.

Another 48 victims remained hospitalized on Sunday, including 11 who were in serious or critical condition, said Lyuba Zhomova, a spokesperson for the Moscow Health Directorate.

As reports on the death toll fluctuated amid the confusion and distress of the attack, Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov promised increased security measures in the nervous capital.

The Saturday afternoon blasts at the festival at a suburban airfield sharply renewed the sense of vulnerability among the sprawling city's 10 million people, where Chechen rebels last year held hundreds of hostages at a theater and a subway station bombing in 2000 killed 13 people.

No arrests have been made in the Saturday bombings and no one has yet claimed responsibility. But Gryslov said a passport belonging to a 20-year-old Chechen was found on one of the bombers.

Gryzlov issued an order for increasing security, including boosting police presence at hospitals, theaters and shopping centers. Security will be stepped up substantially at mass gatherings,

SUICIDE/ A21

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY: M. TOLOSA, PDI RESEARCH/07/07/03 SOURCE: PAGASA

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Pro-gun groups bat for right to bear arms

FIREARM owners are fighting efforts by the government and private groups to curb gun ownership. A lawsuit on the right to bear arms has been filed by a former government official and prominent gun enthusiast, and groups defending the right to own guns are recruiting members to counter rival organizations seeking to restrict the number of guns in private hands.

Ironically, the campaign for the right to own guns gained strength after President Macapagal-Arroyo issued in January an order banning civilians from carrying their weapons outside their homes.

The order effectively revoked hundreds of permits to carry firearms that the Department of the Interior and Local Governments had issued to private citizens, who had said they needed the guns for self-protection or professional reasons.

Former Solicitor General Frank Chavez filed a petition with the Supreme Court to have the President's order suspended on the grounds it was unconstitutional.

Carlo Ybañez, a lawyer who helped Chavez draft the petition, conceded that Filipinos, unlike Americans, did not have the right to bear arms enshrined in their Constitution.

"But we can argue that we have the right to carry arms because it is intertwined with our right to protect life, especially here in the Philippines where we all know the police cannot protect the citizens," he said.

In an unprecedented move, the firearms rights group, Peaceful Responsible Owners of Guns (Pro-Gun), held a large rally to show its outrage.

Pro-Gun president Mike Melchor said some 12,000 people were affected by the order.

"It was really rough for us. Some people were issued permits on the same day the order canceling the permits came out," said Pro-Gun secretary general Andy Apostol.

Government officials then appeared to backtrack, saying the firearms permits were only being reviewed to strengthen safeguards and weed out unqualified people.

New permits to carry firearms will be issued and those who had paid for their old permits would have the balance of their fees taken into account, the DILG had said.

Pro-Gun argues the crackdown on guns mainly affects the licensed owners of firearms and does nothing about the unlicensed guns in the hands of criminals and insurgents.

Officials said 800,000 firearms licenses had been issued this year to civilians and government officials.

Another 328,000 firearms are believed being held by civilians without police authorization.

This does not include the guns in the hands of rebel groups like the communist New People's Army and the Muslim separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

But Nandy Pacheco, president of Gunless Society, a group advocating firearms control, said the public would be safer if fewer people were allowed to carry guns in public.

Pacheco said Filipinos often showed off their masculinity by flaunting their guns and using these even over trivial matters.

"You know the Filipinos, even just with traffic problems there will be gun battles," he said.

While his group is in favor of "progressive disarmament," it has not called for banning people from keeping guns in their homes and for sport, however.

Under existing laws, most Filipinos are allowed to own only two guns: one "long arm"—a shotgun or a .22 cal. rifle—and one handgun.

Just getting a license for each gun requires certificates of employment, clearances from police officials, mayors and courts, drug and psychiatric tests, and the payment of fees totaling as much as P7,000.

Even then, a license-holder can only keep his guns at home. A much valued "permit to carry" is required to transport the guns. Procuring that needs more clearances and fees. *AFP*

'Military lying about NPA deaths'

By Christian V. Esguerra

WHAT casualties?

The New People's Army yesterday described as a "monstrous lie" the military's claim that 15 rebels had been killed in the nine-hour gunfight in Pampanga last Friday.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER, NPA spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said the lie was "concocted" on orders of Malacañang by Armed Forces Maj. Gen. Alberto Braganza, chief of the 7th Infantry Division, "in his desperation to boost the sagging morale of his men."

Rosal said "weaving lies" has long been a practice of the AFP, and the latest announcement was meant to make up for "grave losses" during clashes with the NPA in Samar and Compostela Valley more than a week ago.

The government lost five soldiers and 11 militiamen on June 26, when NPA rebels raided a military outpost in Oras, Eastern Samar. Four days later, 13 more soldiers were killed and 10 others wounded in another clash in Compostela Valley.

Rosal said the NPA was verifying reports that two soldiers were killed last Friday during the encounter in a large fishpond area in Sasmuan. This conservative estimate is in stark contrast to the AFP's count of 15 rebel casualties. Only two bodies of rebels were recovered after the fighting ended early Saturday morning.

Around 9 a.m. the same day, the Army announced yesterday, the 6th Scout Ranger Company had killed two communist rebels in Barangay Pagsabanga, New Bataan, Compostela Valley.

The recent clashes have prompted the military to redeploy troops in areas supposedly under a "tactical alliance" between the NPA and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Prior to the attacks, most of the troops had been stationed in Mindanao to run after MILF rebels and Abu Sayyaf bandits.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu admitted on Saturday that his group has had a tactical alliance with the NPA since the 1990s. But he said this was just "an understanding that the MILF won't touch NPA-controlled areas, and vice-versa," and never involved joint attacks or the sharing of arms and information. *With Delfin Mallari Jr. PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Sweatshops exist, militants insist

By Blanche S. Rivera

"WE have proof."

The militant labor group Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) yesterday maintained that sweatshops existed in the country, particularly among small and medium enterprises that practiced labor contractualization and paid very low wages.

KMU chair Elmer Labog said his group was prepared to present data on these sweatshops, following a pronouncement by the Confederation of Garments Exporters of the Philippines (Congep) that most garment firms complied with standards set by the government.

Donald Dee, Congep president, insisted on Saturday that Anvil Ensembles in Rizal, found to have subjected workers to inhumane treatment, was an exception rather than the norm. He stressed that Anvil was not a member of Congep, which represented 70 percent of the country's garment manufacturers.

In a statement yesterday, Labog dismissed Dee's stand as "defensive and self-serving."

He said initial information gathered by the KMU public information division identified at least three sweatshops in Metro Manila and Cavite, two of them garment manufacturers: Philcon Garments, near the export processing zone in Cavite, a subcontractor for the international brand Gap; RK Garments, exporter of jogging pants, in Novaliches, Quezon City; and Leakton, producer of plastic bags, in Metro Manila.

According to the KMU report, Philcon workers are currently on strike over the firm's violation of the minimum wage law; RK Garments did not remit workers' contributions to the Social Security System, and Leakton also underpays its workers and prohibits the formation of a union.

Anvil Ensembles, subcontractor for such international brands as JC Penney, was found to be paying its employees measly wages, and allegedly gave them an insomnia-inducing drug to keep them working for up to 72 hours.

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US role OK with MILF

THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front yesterday said it was open to the idea of letting the United States broker the peace talks between the separatist group and the government.

"We have no problem with that," MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu told the INQUIRER.

"Any effort toward the peaceful resolution of the Mindanao conflict is all right with us," he added.

The only thing that is keeping the MILF from returning to the negotiating table is the government's refusal to lift the warrants for arrest against its chair Salamat Hashim and other top officials, the spokesperson said.

"The ball is in the government's hands now," he said.

Kabalu said that although the lifting of the warrants was never a pre-condition for the resumption of the talks, it had been agreed upon by the government and the MILF during "exploratory talks" in Malaysia last March. *Christian V. Esguerra*

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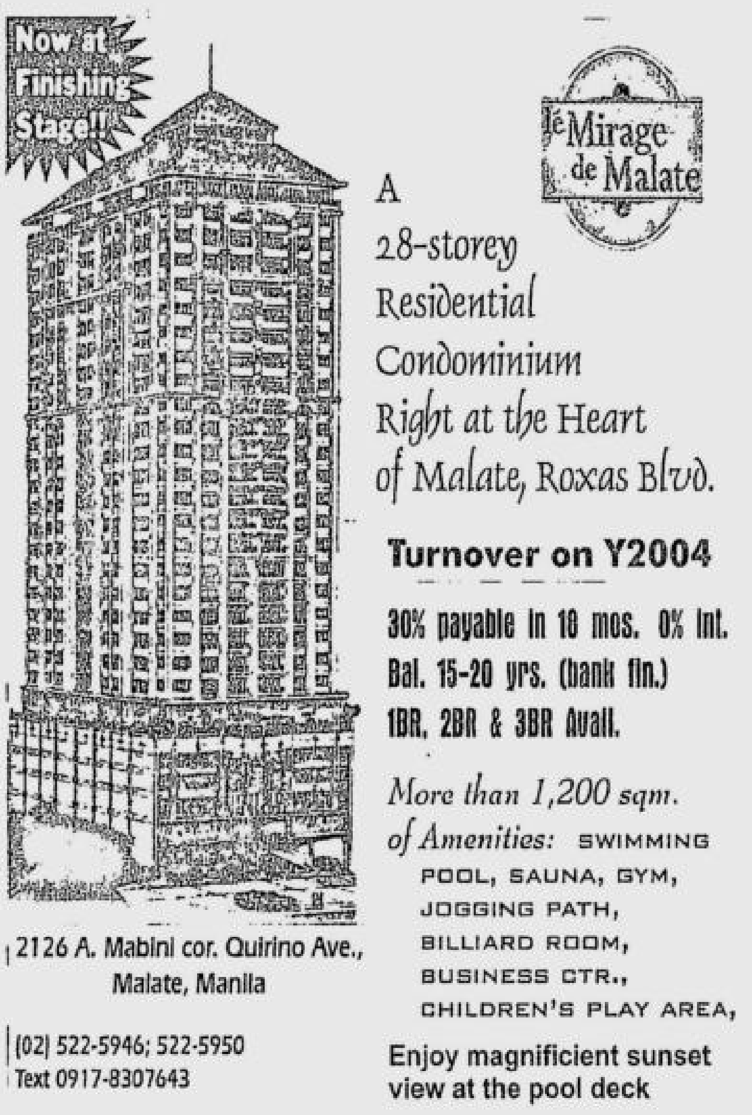
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Estrada lawyer takes new tack, files motion in Filipino

IN YET another twist in the plunder trial of ousted President Joseph Estrada, his lawyer is filing today before the Sandiganbayan a motion for reconsideration written in Filipino.

Told about defense counsel Alan Paguia's plan, Chief Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio was quick to dismiss the move as a "gimmick," but he admitted the motion would have the lawyers reaching for and dusting off their Filipino-English dictionaries.

Paguia, however, promised to go easy on his Filipino.

"Legal words and phrases in Latin and English that will sound corny when translated into Filipino will be left as is," said Estrada's newest lawyer, who is a native Metro Manilan.

Among these is the legal phrase "res judicata," which Black's Law Dictionary defines as "a matter adjudged; a thing judicially acted upon or decided."

Paguia will also not change the word "prejudgment," a matter he said the Sandiganbayan special division under Presiding Justice Minita Chico-Nazario did not touch upon in a July 2 resolution.

Paguia had argued that the justices of the Supreme Court had "prejudged" Estrada, when they attended the proclamation of President Macapagal-Arroyo on Jan. 20, 2001.

Their action, Paguia said, had placed the justices' subsequent decision to uphold the validity of the Macapagal administration in question.

In today's motion, Paguia said he will ask the anti-graft body to rule on whether there had been prejudgment in the Supreme Court decision.

In an earlier interview, Paguia had said using Filipino in the motion for reconsideration was aimed at making the *masa*—who make up Estrada's base of support—clearly understand the case against the deposed leader.

Paguia said words like "Your honors, *ano ba ito, nagbubulagbulagan na lang ba tayo*? (Are we playing blind?)" sound better in Filipino.

"I will bring the legal issue to the level of the ordinary citizen," he said.

Paguia said there was no prohibition on writing motions in Filipino, pointing out that two Supreme Court decisions had been written in the national language.

Villa-Ignacio agreed, saying judges were known to write decisions in Tagalog in areas where the people involved were "uneducated" or "not sophisticated."

"But here it may not be necessary because all of us understand English," he said, adding that he would have to ask for a "translation" of Paguia's motion.

But he said it helps that the Filipino Language Commission recently gave the prosecutors Filipino-English dictionaries.

Armand N. Nocum

Palace holding up 'pork,' says solon

AN OPPOSITION congressman has accused Malacañang of "deliberately" withholding their pork barrel until they commit themselves to supporting the election of President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2004.

Rep. Gilbert Remulla (LDP, Cavite), who is backing Sen. Panfilo Lacson for president, said the Palace was "using the pork barrel both as a carrot and a stick."

"It's a 'no support for GMA, no pork' situation," Remulla said.

He warned the Palace, however, that because [some] congressmen need their pork barrel to fund projects in their districts, "they'll do or say anything to get it."

"But selling GMA come election time would be a different matter," he said.

Congressmen have yet to receive their 2003 pork barrel, as well as the remaining one-fourth of their allocations for 2002.

Earlier, Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II (Lakas, Mandaluyong) had conceded that there was "some grumbling" in the House because of the delay in the release of the pork barrel.

Each congressman is allotted P15 million in a Priority Assistance Development Fund and P50 million in Department of Public Works and Highways projects per year, for a total of P65 million. Senators get more—P200 million each.

Gonzales had explained the delay in the release of the pork barrel.

"For one thing, the 2003 budget was signed only in May," he said. "Another reason is that some congressmen may not have identified their projects on time."

The representatives do not actually touch the money but identify the projects they want completed in their districts.

Carlito Pablo

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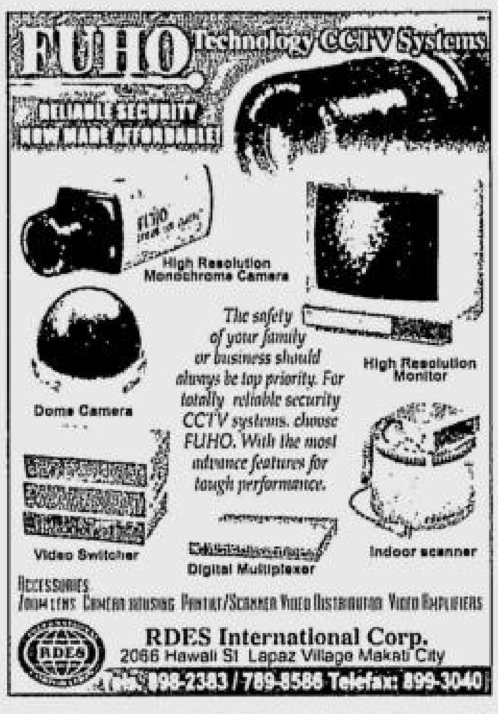
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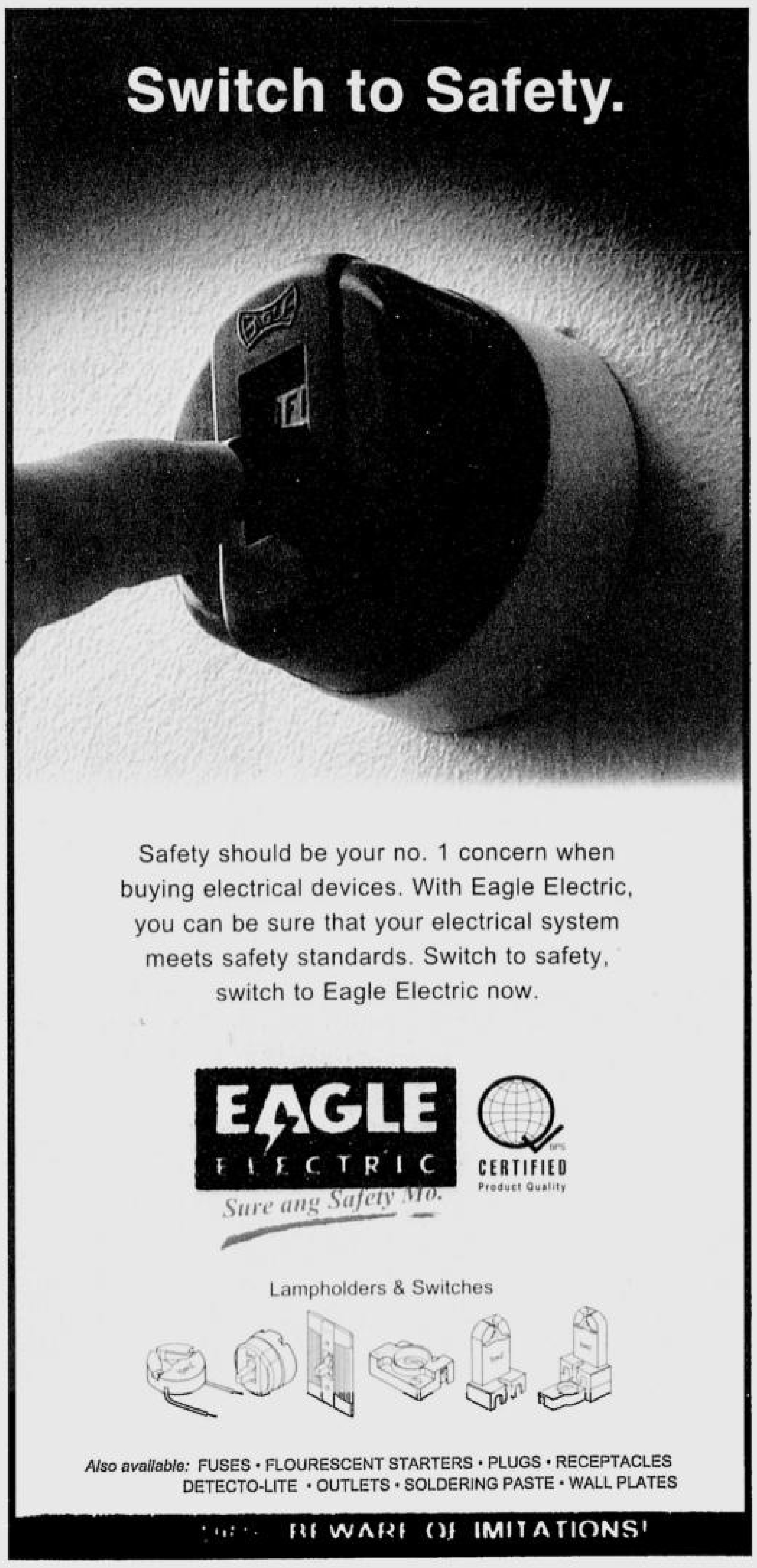
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Drilon: History shows President plays no role in Charter change

By Christine O. Avendaño

LEGISLATIVE history shows the President plays no role when it comes to amending the Constitution, according to Senate President Franklin Drilon.

Drilon disputed lawyer Camilio Sabio's claim that under the Constitution, President Macapagal-Arroyo had no choice but to participate in the current campaign to amend the Charter.

Sabio in turn had questioned Drilon and Sen. Joker Arroyo's earlier statements that the President had a "zero role" in Charter change as this was exclusively a congressional initiative.

Drilon checked legislative records, however, and said these showed the joint resolution passed by Congress in 1967 calling for a constitutional convention to amend the 1935 Constitution "was not passed to then President (Ferdinand Marcos) for approval."

Joint Resolution No. 2, which was adopted on March 16, 1967, was signed by then Senate President Gil Puyat and Speaker Jose B. Laurel, he said.

The resolution, Drilon added, "became effective immediately."

The move to amend the 1987 Constitution had drawn near unanimous support in the House but has been stymied in the Senate.

One of the proposals the senators oppose, Drilon said, is the establishment of a transition government between 2004 and 2007 when the new Constitution would take effect.

This makes the Charter change initiative, Drilon said, just "another phrase for term extension."

"It's the same banana and we will oppose it," he added.

Drilon urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to "stop all this talk of a transition government as it erodes her credibility."

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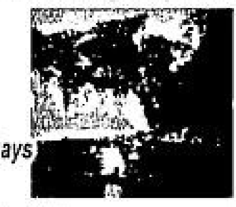
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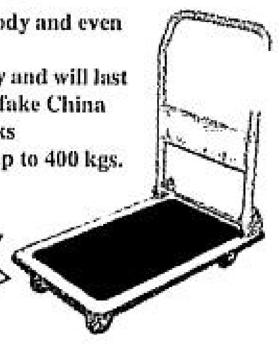
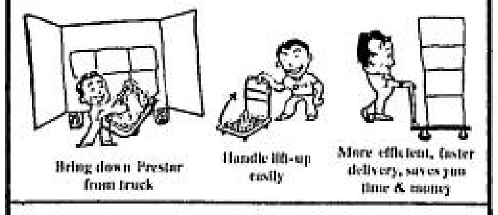
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Pro-Roco faction in Palace behind intrigues?

By Carlito Pablo

ROCO

HOUSE leaders are wary of a Malacañang bloc believed to be supportive of the presidential plans of former Senator and Education Secretary Raul Roco and which they suspect of attempting to drive a wedge between the ruling Lakas-CMD party and the Nationalist People's Coalition of prospective Roco rival, Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.

Two House officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Palace faction may have been behind recent talk of a threat to unseat Speaker. Jose de Venecia, who co-chairs Lakas with President Macapagal-Arroyo, with the participation of Cojuangco's well-knit group of 65 congressmen.

A source close to De Venecia said the pro-Roco group was composed of Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, Presidential Chief Legal Counsel Avelino Cruz and Presidential Adviser Vicky Garchitorena.

"There is an emerging scenario that if GMA doesn't run, it will be Danding for the Lakas-NPC alliance," the source said. "Roco does not have a foothold in this alliance."

The second source, a lawmaker, said in a separate interview that although Roco's Aksyon Demokratiko party was part of the Lakas-led People Power Coalition, "the Roco group is largely marginalized in terms of organized party support."

"The Lakas-NPC alliance has the numbers, hence, there are efforts to undermine their unity," the lawmaker said.

A source close to Romulo, however, took strong exception to the allegation that the so-called "Little President" was involved in any "political intrigue."

"What I know is that Executive Secretary Romulo will support whomever GMA endorses," the source said. "He will adopt the same position as the President."

The same source added that "there are people who want to put the executive secretary in a box but they should realize that his loyalty is only to the President."

When sought for comment, House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II (Lakas, Mandaluyong) and Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) said in separate interviews that it was "possible" a political faction wanted to ruin the Lakas-NPC unity.

Both declined to comment at length, however, on the existence of a pro-Roco bloc in Malacañang.

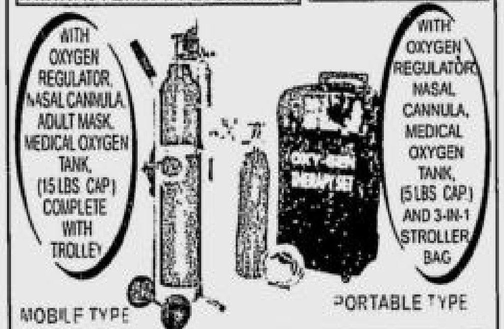
Gonzales said: "By this time, there are those who would want to undo the Lakas alliance with NPC."

Nograles, the Lakas party-whip for Mindanao but who is openly supportive of Cojuangco, said: "Whoever they are, they don't want this alliance to continue."

"It's possible there are those who want to break the bonds between Lakas and NPC," he said.

Cojuangco's nephew, Rep. Gilbert Teodoro (NPC, Tarlac), said: "If that (pro-Roco bloc) is true then it's sad that petty prejudices are thrown in the way of national healing and unity."

Like Gonzales and Nograles, Teodoro steered clear of the allegation.



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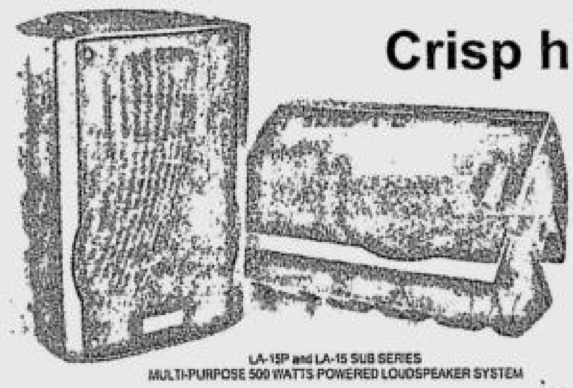

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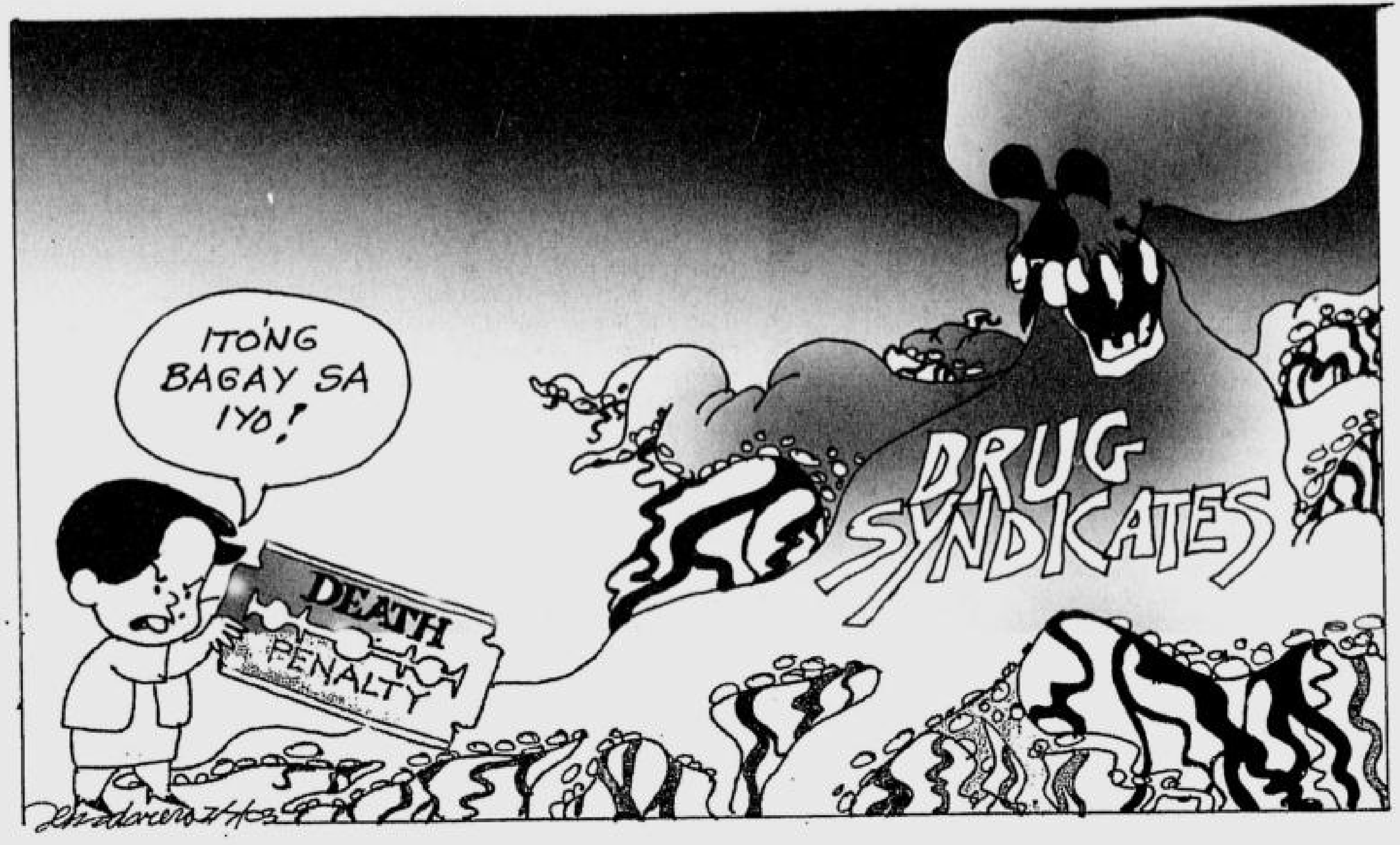

A political choice

EDITORIAL

THE APPOINTMENT of a politician to the Supreme Court has revived the specter of court-packing, which haunted the second Macapagal administration not too long ago. Because the high court is still spooked by the other-worldly arguments and assertions of new Estrada counsel Allan Paguia, the ghostly apparition has come back at precisely the wrong time.

The Supreme Court placed public interest above all else when it recognized the legitimacy of the people-powered ascent of President Macapagal Arroyo. With her appointment of three-term congressman Dante Tinga as the newest associate justice, however, the President has repaid the court's historic action by placing her interest above that of the court's.

Let us be clear: We do not think that a background in elective politics should disqualify a lawyer from serving on the high court. We believe the composition of the high court should reflect as wide a variety of experience as possible. The example of Chief Justice Hilario Davide (once an opposition assemblyman from Cebu) is proof that familiarity with the rough-and-tumble world of politics does not necessarily breed contempt for the law, but sometimes an abiding respect. American legal scholars are now of the opinion that US Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes, who ran for the White House, was one of the most effective leaders in that court's history. Perhaps the best example, however, is much closer to home: Jose P. Laurel, whose distinguished term on the Supreme Court was informed by his unsurpassed insight into the processes and practices of politics.

Tinga is a law dean and a law professor, but his public reputation rests on his 11 years in Congress, where he authored the Oil Deregulation Law, among other measures. At another time, or perhaps in another presidency, it is possible he would have been a good choice.

But in the context of the time, he will draw more heat to the Supreme Court, rather than less.

In announcing her seventh Supreme Court appointment, the President offered an explanation that did not explain. "Only one of the five nominees got a unanimous vote from the JBC (Judicial and Bar Council). He's the one I appointed."

This implies that Ms Macapagal had always chosen the JBC nominee who earned a unanimous vote; this is simply not true, as the case of other appointees, such as her first, Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, readily proves.

This statement also implies that the President had no discretionary power in reality; she would always choose the one recommended with the most number of votes. Again, this isn't true. Associate Justice Alicia Austria-Martinez, for one, tied for second place; it was Ms Macapagal's discretion to choose Martinez over the nominee she had tied with.

Not least, the President's statement implies that she has no influence whatsoever on the JBC and its nomination process. This isn't true, technically and historically. One, the secretary of justice, by definition an alter ego of the President, is an ex-officio member of the council. And two, as the unfortunate case of Associate Justice Adolf Azcuna demonstrates, the President is quite capable of forcing the JBC to see things her way.

On at least two occasions last year, President Macapagal-Arroyo wanted to appoint Azcuna, presidential legal adviser during the time of President Corazon Aquino, to the high tribunal. Azcuna, however, failed to muster the minimum of four votes. The Palace tried to convince the JBC to reopen the nomination process, but Davide, the council's ex-officio chair, refused. The President finally resorted to publicly airing her preference for Azcuna. By the time of the next vacancy, the JBC had taken the hint. Azcuna topped the vote.

Thus, it is unlikely that the President appointed Tinga last week against her will. On the contrary, it is highly likely that, as in the case of Commission on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos, the President was hoping a politician-appointee would ultimately prove more pliable, more open to seeing things her way.

At a time when the high court is regarded by Estrada's natural constituency as biased for his successor, the President should have appointed a lawyer perceived, not only as being above reproach, but beyond influence. That is what the Supreme Court needed; that is the need the President did not meet.

The LRT side again, without comments

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

THIS morning's Kapihan sa Manila breakfast forum should prove interesting and edifying as it would be a confrontation between Administrator Teodoro Cruz Jr. of the Light Rail Transit Authority, and his tormentor and accuser, Roberto Gualberto, erstwhile deputy manager of Metro Manila Light Rail Transit Consultants (MMLRTC). Gualberto had accused Cruz and the LRTA of overpricing and rigged bidding in the acquisition of P175 million rail grinding machine and a P43-million contract for a Management Information System for the LRTA. Cruz has denied the accusations.

I have met with the LRTA chief three times already during which I listened to his explanations, which I dutifully wrote here. After Cruz's explanation, Gualberto sends a rejoinder after which Cruz again will answer and so forth and so on. The readers can't determine who is telling the truth and who is not, who is right and who is wrong.

Finally, I asked both sides if they are willing to confront each other so the public will hear both sides and judge for themselves. I offered the Kapihan as venue. Gualberto readily agreed, but Cruz hesitated.

"I'm willing to face him in front of you," he said, "but not in front of the whole media. *Agraviado kami doon.*"

"Media is fair," I told him. "Don't you want them to hear your side?"

"Media is biased against us," he replied. *"Wala kaming laban."*

"I don't think so," I said and it would be worse if you don't show up. The journalists will hear only the other side and that is what they will write. You lose by default."

He was still not convinced. "You think about it," I said.

"We'll talk about it," he replied.

Yesterday, his spokesperson called and said, "We'll attend the *kapihan*."

Meanwhile, the LRTA had requested that I print here their latest reply to the accusations without comment. I had already printed here his explanations but with comments based on documents in my possession, as I always want to have a balanced column, putting both sides of any issue at the same time as much as possible. I always want to be fair to everybody.

For example, in a letter to me, Cruz had said "there is no overpriced P175 million rail grinding machine because the equipment has yet to be purchased."

But documents said the machine is already here, at the piers, only waiting to be extracted, and I said so in the July 1 column.

In our last meeting, Cruz finally admitted that the machine is indeed here but that he didn't know it at the time he sent the letter. The letters from Sumitomo about the arrival here of the machine were dated June 6 and June 9. The letter of Cruz to me denying the existence of the machine was sent in the last week of June.

Anyway, as I promised, here are the latest LRTA explanations, without comment. You be the judge; you don't have to believe them all. Anyway, the other side will surely have its say at this morning's *kapihan*.

1. On the shipment of the rail grinding machine here despite lack of final approval:

Sumitomo did it all at its own risk. It would absorb the loss if the sale does not push through.

2. On the signature of Cruz concurring with the recommendation of MMLRTC to purchase the machine and pay the excess amount as a "variation order."

Cruz's concurrence was for the variation order, not for the purchase.

3. On the need for a rail grinding machine now when Line 2 won't need it for the next five to six years, as the rails are still new. In fact, only a third or it is being used (the Pasig-to-Cubao stretch) while two thirds of it (the Cubao-to-Recto/Rizal Avenue line) is still unfinished:

The rail grinding machine is needed now, not five years later. Besides, it will also be used for Line 1, whose rails are badly in need of grinding.

4. Why use Line 2 money for a machine urgently needed by Line 1? Why pass on Line 1 expense to Line 2?

Because Line 1 doesn't have the money. Line 2 has, from funds provided by the Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC).

5. On the "rigged bidding" for the MIS:

The bidding was the responsibility of Sumitomo, not LRTA. As winner of the Package 1 contract, Sumitomo has the prerogative to look for contractors for components of Package 1. The MIS is one of those components.

6. On the three bidders having only one office address:

The common address of two, not three, companies is a business center with 12 companies renting out business space. They are not inter-related or cross-owned.

7. How about the bid of Meco Industries signed by a Katherine P. David, and the same Katherine P. David being listed as director for web development of Deltabridge Systems.

Ms David was a freelance consultant as bid manager for Meco from June 20 to Sept. 20, 2002. Her contract ended when Sumitomo told Meco that it had decided on a different supplier Deltabridge, Ms David was then hired by Deltabridge.

8. What about the claim that Deltabridge also owns Easynet Services?

SEC records show that Deltabridge did acquire 50 percent of Easynet, but five weeks after winning the contract.

Strength

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

I REMEMBER the first time I set foot in Singapore in the 1970s. I was groggy from lack of sleep and tiredness, and as I left the Immigration counter, I forgot a small bag I had laid down on the floor. I was already outside waiting for my turn to get a taxi when a porter came rushing out. He had the item in hand. He asked me if it was mine, and I said yes. He handed it back to me without a word. I was profuse with thankfulness.

He took it in stride, said it was part of the day's work. He would be remiss in his duties if he did not do so. This was Singapore, he said, everyone pitched in to make things better.

Notwithstanding Lee Kuan Yew and his iron hand, that was pretty impressive. Later, a friend of mine would tell me that his experience with Singaporeans—he is a bookseller—suggested they thought very highly of themselves. In fact, he said, their motto might very well be, "nobody does it better." They made better food, they made better products, they had a better airline, they had better schools and so on.

Good and bad, my friend said. The bad was that the attitude could piss you off, the line between pride and swell-headedness wasn't always firm with them. The good was that their belief in themselves and their country, exaggerated or not, drove them to aspire for great things.

Many Filipino public officials have professed admiration for Lee's rule and have wondered if we did not merely have the wrong kind of authoritarianism during Marcos's time. Maybe, they say, if we had Lee's kind authoritarianism, we would be better off by now. Maybe, today's current government officials in particular say, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's "strong republic" will do the trick.

They miss the point. The strength of Singapore's "strong republic" does not lie in the kind of government it has, it lies in the kind of character its people have. Doubtless, Lee has much to do with it. But it is far less his iron-fistedness that has raised Singapore to world-class levels than it is his example of uncompromising independence. You might not like the way he does things in Singapore, but he truly can say, like Frank Sinatra, "I did it my way." And the way things are, many Singaporeans are likely to say, "That is our way too."

That is what we lack, that talent or will for epic independence. Whether we have a democracy or authoritarian rule, whether we have a strong republic or a weak one, is almost beside the point. Either way, we won't get very far. Not with an attitude that says another country knows best and we are better off following its lead. Strength, in individuals or in nations, is internal, not external. It is moral, not physical. What makes a republic strong is a leader that has a vision for the country, one that springs naturally from its history and tradition and not from the mirage dangled before it by another country. What makes a republic strong is a people that have pride in their country and in themselves, not one that believe they have the good fortune to be the sidekick of a powerful patron.

What has provoked these thoughts was the Fourth of July, which was last Friday. That used to be our Independence Day until Gloria's father, Diosdado, changed it to June 12. Diosdado justified his decision thus: "I felt that July 4 was not inspiring enough for the Filipino youth since it recalled mostly the peaceful independence missions to the United States. The celebration of Independence Day on June 12... would recall the heroes of the revolution against Spain and their acts of sublime heroism and martyrdom."

That is not without irony. Not least because Diosdado himself little practiced what he preached. Changing the country's Independence Day was pretty much the only thing he did for Philippine independence. He was an American Boy, to quote the title of James Hamilton-Paterson's book on Marcos, through and through. His daughter has followed tradition. And caused an even bigger irony.

"The peaceful independence missions to the United States" have their counterpart today. That is the not very peaceful missions to the United States GMA has made over the past years, literally and metaphorically. What the two missions have in common in particular is that their members have hat in one hand and begging bowl in the other. The first missions begged for independence, the second ones begged for "repatriation."

Diosdado Macapagal changed Independence Day from July 4 to June 12. Gloria Macapagal changed it right back from June 12 to July 4.

All this presumably helps to build a "strong republic." A case argued by the accoutrement of strength and power it totes along: A martial antiterrorist rhetoric, massive arms aid, the presence of American troops in the country, military campaigns here and there, a lot of macho talk against the Moros. What it forgets is what Marcos forgot when he declared martial law in aid of building a strong republic. That strength does not lie in arms and brawn and posturing. On the face of it, nothing could be stronger than Marcos's republic, propped up as it was by the bayonets of martial law. At bottom, nothing could be weaker. On the face of it, nothing can be stronger than GMA's republic, propped up as it is by the might of America. At bottom, nothing can be weaker.

What's true for individuals is true for nations too. Strength isn't what's outside, it's what's inside. Strength is not the caliber of the gun one carries, it is the quality of the mettle one shows. In the end, the two sets of leaders are not Marcos and Lee Kuan Yew on one side and Gloria on the other. The two sets of leaders are Marcos and Gloria on one side and Lee Kuan Yew on the other.

Like Marcos, Gloria only has the arms. Unlike them, Lee Kuan Yew has the character.

Dante Ang entitled to 'honest bewilderment'

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IN the early '50s, the legendary Fr. John P. Delaney SJ, chaplain of the UP Student Catholic Action (UPSCA), was being accused by some members of the UP Board of Regents of being a "community meddler" and an "alien priest." It particularly hurt this Irish-American priest from New York City because he had spent more than a decade in the Philippines by then, during which he felt he had helped zealously nurture the morals of Filipino students under his care. In a confrontation with the UP Board of Regents, Father Delaney said, "I know not what in Manila or in Davao or in Baguio or any other corner of this country the color of my skin or my place of origin would make of me, but surely not in Diliman." Then Delaney shot the regents the pained question that over 50 years later still resounds in the minds of UPSCANs, "I therefore ask with honest bewilderment: How much more of himself must a man give before he can become one of you?"

* * *

This is perhaps the same question that Manila Times publisher Dante Ang can ask, now that he is being accused by his enemies of being an "alien" in his country of birth, with no right to the businesses he has established. Ang was born here of a Chinese father and a Filipino mother 61 years ago. His birth certificate says he is Filipino and he has been using a Filipino passport all these years—all these personal documents bear the presumption of regularity. He and his family have engaged in various businesses here, paying their taxes here and employing numerous Filipinos.

Ang is entitled to "honest bewilderment" over the citizenship issue now being raked up against him: how much more of himself must he give before he can become one of us Filipinos? That 'alien' charge is ridiculous and his enemies have to invent something else if they want to get him.

* * *

Senate President Franklin Drilon reacted to the demand aired in this space and in other columns for the public release of the much-awaited Senate Committee Report 66. This is the joint Senate committees' report on their nine-month investigation of Sen. Panfilo Lacson and other former top PNP officials on drug-trafficking, kidnapping and other crimes. Until now, over a year after the Senate probe had closed, lead committee chair Robert Barbers has been unable to report it to the plenary body. Some media have alleged that the report is being stifled because the senators are protecting their own.

* * *

Drilon wrote me to "correct the media impression" that the report is being kept away from the public, and in fact he furnished me a copy of the refiled report, now renamed CR No. 237. He asserted that CR 66 is a public document, on file in the Senate docket, and while its legislative history has been sufficiently explained to this column by Majority Leader Sen. Loren Legarda, "Suffice it to say that the said committee report will be sponsored on the floor by Sen. Robert Barbers (the lead committee chair) when we reconvene our sessions in July." So there, we have this assurance directly from the chamber chief. I began reading the report last weekend and I could barely put it down as it was quite forthright and pretty strong in language.

* * *

A Palace official called up to dispute allegations here and other media outlets that the President met with Nationalist People's Coalition chair Eduardo Cojuangco for 1 1/2 hours a few afternoons ago at Villamor Airbase. My caller referred me to what presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye had said: that the two leaders met "very briefly" in between GMA's arrival from Marawi City and her address before the Air Force people at Villamor, during which they agreed to strengthen the coalition in the House. "Very briefly," stressed my caller, meant a few minutes, not 1 1/2 hours.

* * *

The latest surveys show that Sen. Noli de Castro continues to stay on top of the heap of politicians being mentioned for president or vice president in 2004. But the interesting thing is that even his Senate colleagues know almost nothing about de Castro. Not too long ago, a couple of senators sat around in the Senate lounge talking about the recent survey results and one of them suddenly asked, does any one know Noli's wife or his children? Or where he went to school, did he finish college? Or where he lives? No one among the senators knew anything.

That total blank about this survey topnotcher is the biggest argument for the need for charter change and a shift to the parliamentary system *now*. In the latter system a candidate for any office will be closely scrutinized by his peers, unlike in our current system where the *masa* determines electoral winners based on their popularity on TV or the screen.

* * *

I join business executive Peter Wallace in expressing outrage over the shockingly callous and heartless behavior of a woman named Marissa Ortiz, who was aboard the recklessly driven speedboat that recently killed Ms. Vangie Palacios in Lake Caliraya. As Peter, himself a Caliraya dweller, pointed out, Vangie, a wife and mother, was swimming in the area reserved for wind surfers, when the speedboat racing through the area hit her, the propellers killing her. Instead of stopping, as any decent person would, said Peter, Ortiz kept the boat going until people on the shore shouted for it to return. On returning, one of the boat's crew went into the water, and when he found Vangie dead, Ortiz ordered him to leave the body and return to the boat, and it fled from the scene. Worse, all efforts of Vangie's husband, Art Palacios, or his lawyers to reach Ortiz were ignored. Her actions, said Wallace, "show a heartlessness we, as a society, shouldn't tolerate—yet too often do." He wants to publicly shame Ortiz "into offering her apologies to Vangie's husband, and some recompense for the damage she did." What about filing some charges against Ortiz?

Policy of appeasement

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa

THE REPUBLICAN Party was in power in Washington for the first 13 years of the American presence in the Philippines. The Democrats, who had opposed the American colonization and vigorously proposed independence for the Philippines, gained a majority in the house of representatives in March 1911.

The election of Woodrow Wilson two years later as president of the United States marked a change in policy in the Philippines that facilitated Filipino participation in their government, with the objective of granting them independence as soon as possible.

Wilson appointed Francis Burton Harrison as governor general of the Philippines. In accordance with the stand of the US Congress Forbes pursued policies that would pave the way for "the ultimate independence of the islands."

The entire Philippine civil service was transformed with a policy of "Filipinization," which was fully supported by Gov. Frank W. Carpenter. With his remarkable performance in public office which was described as "incalculably great service," Carpenter was appointed governor of the Department of Mindanao and Sulu, and shortly after, the Philippines Free Press even wrote of him as "a marvel of efficiency."

Highlights of Carpenter's administration were "the gradual unification of the structure and powers of provincial and municipal governments in Moroland with those in Luzon and the Visayas; Filipinization of government personnel; assumption of the civil government of complete responsibility for the maintenance of public order; further extension of government control over regions inhabited by Moros and pagans; further stimulation and development of the natural resources, industry, commerce and agriculture of Moroland; and continued development of the social, political and material conditions of the Moros and pagans with a view to their rapid amalgamation with the inhabitants of the other islands."

This was the essence of Carpenter's "policy of attraction," which involved the reduction of the American military presence, acceleration of the economic, political and social improvement of the people, promotion of greater Moro participation in governmental affairs; the integration of the Moro and pagan inhabitants into the body politic of the Philippine nation; and winning their acceptance of, or at least acquiescence in, the collection of taxes, the operation of schools, the abdication of the Sultan of Sulu, and the presence of Christian Filipino officials in positions of authority among them (Peter Gowing, Mandate in Moroland, 1977).

Probably inspired by the success of the Carpenter administrative policies, the Marcos martial law government in the late '70s embarked on its own "policy of attraction" to seduce members of the Moro National Liberation Front to lay down their arms and "return to the fold of the law," a euphemism for surrender.

But this time the government was no longer dealing with kris-waving homicidal savages who became "good" only when rigor mortis had set in, facilitated by the caliber .45 pistol that had been expressly invented for this purpose.

Now the adversary was a large well-organized army led by generally young, educated highly motivated ideologues equipped with high-powered arms and explosives provided by sympathetic foreign governments and organizations.

Upon advice, the new policy direction was renamed the "policy of reconciliation," i.e., brothers torn apart by a quarrel who kiss and make up.

Mosques and madaris were established; Muslim holidays were made official, at least in "Muslim-dominated" areas; even civil service rules were modified with the institution of the "unassembled" mechanism. And there were the so-called "impact projects" to fast-track construction of long-neglected infrastructure in Mindanao and Sulu.

But in truth and in fact, this policy could be more accurately called the policy of appeasement.

As early as the first batch of surrenderers called the "Magic 8" and their followers (quickly labeled by the Tausugs as "balikbayan"), towns were partitioned into several municipalities so that everybody could have a chance at being mayor. Even new provinces were created.

Erstwhile "commanders" were awarded government positions, regardless of qualifications. Surrendered firearms were paid, and even cash dole-outs were distributed for "livelihood projects."

And for the benefit especially of the MNLF's foreign patrons, Marcos set up the Lupong Tagapagpaganap ng Pook which later had to be divided into IX and XII, because the Tausugs, the Maranaos and the Maguindanaoans could not agree on who would be chairman of the new layer of local governance.

When Corazon Aquino took power, she and her own team of strategists, to realize her martyred husband's wish for a final resolution of the Moro insurgency problem, created, through a constitutional amendment, a consultative assembly and finally, a plebiscite, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

But has it succeeded? Did any of the past efforts at appeasement succeed?

Frank Carpenter's policy of attraction was directed at the general populace of "Moros and pagans."

The policy of appeasement, to include the 1996 GRP-MNLF peace agreement, were a series of transactions between the government and the so-called insurgents. Nowhere, whether in the agreement or in the accruing benefits thereof were the people of any significant consideration.

And there lies a world, or more accurately, a century, of difference.

* * *

Comments to nm19@my.smart.com.ph

Guns, goons, gold and God?

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

GOLF is not one of the traditional 3Gs—guns, goons and gold—of Philippine elections. God should be. But First Gentleman Mike Arroyo seems to have gotten something just as good when he visited Jaime Cardinal Sin last Friday to donate P1 million from a golf benefit to the Catholic Church. Out of what alert lawyers later spun into "a light-hearted comment during a mid-morning *merienda*," Mike Arroyo got a valuable but illegal political endorsement by Sin for an on-again GMA candidacy in 2004.

But it is pure sophistry or casuistry that Jaime Citizen Sin materializes out of thin air whenever Jaime Cardinal Sin doffs his zucchetto for a *salakot*, while leaders of the Aglipayan Church and Iglesia ni Kristo are found guilty of violating the principle of separation of church and state for the same acts.

Yet why should the Catholic Church fear and obey the law? The Philippines is a monotheistic Republic, Justice Panganiban astoundingly claimed in a speech to seminarians last year. Like Taliban Afghanistan? Meanwhile, Chief Justice Davide spends more time with Isaiah and Jehovah than Jose Rizal or Thomas Jefferson, and busies himself composing prayers for courtrooms.

TIME Magazine ruffled local feathers about Edsa II in a Jan. 29, 2001 article by Anthony Spaeth: "The more disturbing, albeit most plausible, theory of what transpired involves a conspiracy ... Cardinal Sin has an understandable aversion to a President who boasts of mistresses and illegitimate offspring ... But the Philippine polity is 77 million-strong. Was this a revolution of the Filipino people or of a few hundred thousand Filipinos prompted by a few hundred powerful individuals?"

What was not known then was the decisive role that Chief Justice Hilario Davide and Jaime Cardinal Sin played in those awesome events—unwittingly revealed in Justice Artemio Panganiban's self-aggrandizing book; "Reforming the Judiciary."

Together, these two quiet but determined men, one of cassock and collar, the other of scales and blindfold—forged an incestuous union of Church and Court during the point of power vacuum in the coup that was Edsa II. In the dark of the storm, together they usurped the people's will, to thrust Joseph Estrada's severed head on to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's lap. One swung the bloody ax, the other, the gavel to bless that bloody act.

Who knew that Cardinal Sin banged his fist on the table, startling Gloria into Assumption Convent attention, and demanded she seize the presidency because "the people want a new President now"? Can't you just see the Chief Justice and the Vice President nodding meekly at the Cardinal?

Who knew that the letter in which the Vice President declares the presidency vacant by virtue of Estrada being "permanently disabled," arrived at the Supreme Court 34 minutes before, and was accepted as ending the Estrada presidency by Davide et al., in time for her oath-taking shortly after noontime on that very same day? No validation.

Joseph Estrada should run in the 2004 elections not to vindicate himself, but to restore the democracy that was violated, raped and desecrated in order to get rid of him. He was not deposed by the crowd of citizens at Edsa II, who ultimately had no effective power to force the unconstitutional presidential succession without the purposeful actions of the Supreme Court.

Sin and Davide found themselves at the very nexus of historical events. It was the moment of supreme weakness because all the social and political forces that would become the historic thing called Edsa II, had just come together on that Friday at the Edsa Shrine. The Erap Resign movement had peaked when the military and the rest of his Cabinet abandoned him on that day and joined the hooting throng at Edsa.

It was their actions helping "the mob" to succeed, that really made Edsa II an illegitimate and unconstitutional succession and mocked the "77 million."

Even if Erap were to admit to me that he is guilty of all the plunder charges against him before the Sandiganbayan, it is still his duty to submit his case before the true supreme court of this Republic. For this is no longer about his case alone, really, no more than that the murder of Andres Bonifacio, was about Andres Bonifacio's flaws and failings.

Under the 1987 Constitution Erap can run for Vice President. That would be enough to prove the point. But I hope he can run for President because there really are many millions who still don't know why he isn't still President, or they know only too well why.

If he wins, it would surely mean the people reverse Edsa II and the 1987 Constitution would be deemed amended to let him serve an unequivocal full and single term, as it intended, but was prevented by the Sin-Davide conspiracy. He should accept such victory with nobility and grace and be thankful for a chance to do over his Presidency until 2010. If he loses, he should execute a valid resignation from the Philippine presidency, before June 30, 2004, and plead no contest in the plunder trial, in order to accept with equal grace and nobility that possible judgment of the people.

No matter who won or lost in such a fantasy election between Gloria or Erap, the people win. Only the people's will, redeemed by a sovereign exercise of power over cardinals, justices and presidents can heal the mortal wound on the corpus of the Constitution, left there by Sin and Davide's illicit and incestuous union. *(Visit my personal website at www.deanjorgebocobo.blogspot.com)*

Correction box

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

ONE of the hardest things to make a person do is admit his mistakes. Blame it on a false sense of pride or self-esteem, but "mea culpa" are two of the least used words in our vocabulary. Their usage usually invites raised eyebrows or quizzical looks.

Not content with the INQUIRER acknowledging its errors through this column or its pages, a reader with e-mail address at <jun2k@ispbonanza.com.ph>, wanted to know more about the newspaper's correction policy. He wrote: "Does the INQUIRER have a correction box like the New York Times in their online edition or paper edition?

"A section in the newspaper where the editors can put all the corrections for their readers to see? If not, then isn't it a good idea to have one?"

Before I discuss the reader's letter, let me give you some background information about the correction box of the New York Times. To my knowledge, it is the only newspaper in the world that carries that kind of editorial content every day of the week.

The Monday to Friday issues of The Times contain an average of 40 to 50 pages. On weekends, especially Sundays, the number of pages increases by five or six times, with an aggregate weight of not less than one kilo. An American television comedian once joked that subscribers of the newspaper should not stand at their doorway when their newsboy delivers their copies. The newspaper becomes a deadly weapon when it is thrown into doorways.

The correction box is on Page 2. Occupying the lower portion of the page, that space is reserved for that purpose. No advertisement is allowed to crowd it out. Its size varies depending on the number of errors to be corrected. With the heading "Corrections" printed in bold letters, the readers will not miss it when they turn to the page.

Mistakes

The corrections relate to errors in, among others, names, dates, places, titles and figures, including omissions in obituaries. Here are samples of the corrections:

- An obituary of British philosopher Sir Bernard Williams on June 14 misstated the original name of his first wife, now Baroness Williams of Crosty. She was Shirley Vivienne Teresa Brittain Catlin, not Shirley Brittain.
- An article yesterday about Iraqi smuggling of commodities misstated the name of the oil fields in southern Iraq. It is Rumaila, not Ramallah.
- An obituary of the restaurateur Tony Roma on June 17 omitted his survivors. They include two sons, Tony Joseph and Jason of Sarasota, Florida.
- An article in Business Day on Wednesday about the market for retail malls in New Jersey misstated the sale price for Aviation Plaza. It was $54.5 million, not $55.5 million.
- An article yesterday about ABC's renewed focus on traditional family comedies misstated the title of a series the network plans for the fall. It is "Hope and Faith," not "Faith and Hope."

At the bottom of the page appears the sentence "The Times welcomes comments and suggestions, as well as information about errors that call for correction." The telephone and facsimile numbers, including e-mail addresses, that the readers can use to send their corrections are also stated.

The phoned-in, faxed or e-mailed corrections, including those that may have been spotted by the editorial staff itself, are collated and published the day they are discovered or reported. But if the booboo is serious, like what happened in the case of its reporter Jayson Blair who wrote fictitious or imaginary reports, the erratum is done in a separate and distinct article.

Choice of space

Going back to the reader's suggestion on a correction box, the idea has been discussed and agreed to already by the editors of the INQUIRER. The editors believe they owe it to the readers to correct factual errors even if nobody calls their attention to them, although the task would be made easier if the readers or affected parties write or call about the mistakes.

Under pressure of deadlines, the editors acknowledge they are bound to misspell, omit or overlook certain items in the news reports or articles that they are assigned to edit. By owning up to the lapses and acknowledging them in public, the newspaper, in effect, is telling the public that it will not compromise on the credibility or accuracy of its news reports.

The question that remains to be resolved on the correction box issue is where to put it. The Opinion section, Page 3 or somewhere inside where lengthy front-page news reports are usually continued. The most critical element of the proposed correction box is it should have a permanent niche in the chosen page and should not be displaced by advertisements or any form of editorial content.

The choice of the page requires close coordination between the editorial and advertisement staffs. That page will have a "torrens title" of sorts that will make it impervious to encroachment in case there is an unexpected abundance of news or advertisements.

So when will the correction box become a reality? In due time, said the publisher who has been tasked to supervise the preparation of that special feature. When it finally comes out, it will be another "first" for the mass media in our country.

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City." Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

THEY SAID

Good payers

"My feeling is that good payers end up subsidizing bad payers and therefore, they should really try to minimize that."

—Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Gov. Rafael Buenaventura on high interest rates charged by banks to cover credit card losses

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New packaging for old stuff

I AGREE with Conrado de Quiros' article, "Transformations," which tells of how Danding Cojuangco is packaging himself to appeal to the masses just in time for the next presidential elections. One would never think of him as some poor man's guardian in all his richness, much less a comrade.

He is indeed backed up by most, if not all, major business groups in the hopes of reviving our ailing economy. But what is not conveyed to the masses is that the real aim of this campaign is for economic growth geared toward the big sectors in society particularly, and not for the benefit of the Filipinos in general.

The problem starts with our culture, which leaves us with the tendency to forget the past, only remembering the glorious present that old and hopeful politicians package themselves in, as depicted in the Ginebra commercial. We hope that in the next elections, we, as a people would not be swayed by mere words but rather vote our convictions. That is, if we have learned.

—FRANCHETTE CHINGCUANCO, UP SOLAIR, student, chette_chingcuanco@yahoo.com

Forbearance would have been better

BY playing up the story, "Sleepless in Sweatshop," last July 3, 2003 the methods used by an unscrupulous businessman to keep his employees awake with the use of a restricted drug, the PDI may be only encouraging its use.

By naming the drug, using its likeness in the front page photo and giving its purchase price, the paper most likely would be encouraging addicts all over the country to try the drug with its cheaper-than-shabu price.

There are many unscrupulous local pharmacies who will sell this drug over the counter. Case in point, the number of cough-syrup addicts who stay on the steps of almost every LRT station.

Oh, yes, let us not forget, more unscrupulous businessmen who may try to use the same method to force their employees to stay awake during rush production deadlines.

The point is the drug should not have been named and there would still have been a good headline and story. The PDI is already better than the competition in content and in circulation, why did you not consider holding back on certain information? Or is ethics now just another E word?

—IMELDA GO, Tung Fong Industrial Co., Inc., Phase III, Lot 10 & 12, Block 19, Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Rosario, Cavite

Time for final decision to recover coco levy fund

FOR 16 long years, 3.4 million coconut farmers have been waiting for the courts' decision on the coco levy cases. Three administrations have passed and nothing was gained after the sequestration of the coco levy funded assets except the half-hearted thought that there could be justice after all. With the Supreme Court's decision released last Dec. 14, farmers thought that there could be justice after all. But it seems that politics, once again, is getting in the way.

Congressman Nograles suggested that the PCGG should go easy with Cojuangco (PDI, July 1, 2003). On the contrary, the PCGG should be relentless in its efforts to recover the coco levy funds and assets, protecting them from misuse and promoting the coconut farmers' interests, not those of Danding Cojuangco. Funds involved with the coco levy cases should be protected from dissipation. All the more, should they never be used to promote Cojuangco's interests and political ambition.

The coconut farmers have been waiting for the Sandiganbayan decision since February. Four months have passed and still no decision has been issued. We're thinking that Danding's intention to run for president has something to do with the delay in the court's decision. But we still have faith in the Sandiganbayan and we are urging them to decide right now and show the people that they cannot be intimidated nor influenced by politicians.

The coco levy cases should be resolved as soon as possible as the Supreme Court had so stated, before politicians can even meddle with it.

—LIZA C. CONDINO, Coconut Industry Reform (COIR) Movement, No. 84 Unit 1-DN Masikap Extension, Brgy. Central, Diliman, Quezon City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LETTERS

MIAA head clarifies column raps

I AM REACTING to the statements made by Mr. Conrado R. Banal III in his column of July 3, 2003. In answer to his allegations, I would like to state the following:

1. For a number of years, I lived in a government housing project called Pag-ibig Bliss town homes. For security and facility, my family now occupies a rented place in Makati.

2. Neither the MIAA management nor the MIAA Board has entered into a big real estate deal with any corporation since I took over as general manager on Jan. 21, 2001.

3. The trips abroad, particularly to Hong Kong, before or during the SARS scare were authorized. In these travels, I did not have any traveling companion with initials MN or SW.

4. I do not have any office other than that at MIAA.

5. The documented complaints before the Ombudsman were filed against me by former MIAA employees, retirees claiming certain benefits, and another pertaining to a contract which was awarded long before I assumed my position as general manager.

6. Reshuffling personnel has always been a prerogative of the head of agency particularly whenever there is a need to address specific concerns, like in our case, we had to attend to issues relating to safety, security and accounts receivables.

—EDGARDO C. MANDA, general manager, Manila International Airport Authority

Mineral exploration not bauxite mining yet

THIS refers to the commentary "To exploit or protect?" written by Mayor Melchor F. Nacario of Calbiga, Samar last June 29, 2003 regarding the proposed Samar Island Natural Park (SINP).

We fully respect the views of Mayor Nacario on the issue but allow us to clarify some misconceptions raised in the article.

While I was in Marinduque for the start of the Marcopper rehabilitation study, a reporter from Magandang Gabi Bayan interviewed me regarding the proposed SINP. I asked that my comments be kept off the record because the concerned sectors of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) were still finalizing the Department's stand on the proposed legislation. Despite my request, they aired my comments nonetheless and these were taken out of context.

The two Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSAs) issued by the former DENR secretary underwent the prescribed procedure in securing mining rights in mineral reservations. It is not true that bauxite will be mined in a 12,000-hectare area that encroaches upon a forest reservation. The MPSAs are intended for initial mineral exploration only, under an exploration period of two years, renewable for similar periods. If a sizable economic mineral deposit is discovered, the proposed project will still have to pass through the Environmental Impact Assessment process leading to an Environmental Compliance Certificate, including the required submission of an Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program and of obtaining approval by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan/Bayan/Barangay. There is also the final test of submitting a mining project feasibility study to determine whether or not the project can absorb the environmental and social costs.

The MPSAs fall within the Bauxite Mining Reservation established under Proclamation No. 1615 issued in 1977, prior to the declaration of the Samar Forest Reserve in 1996. Area clearances from other DENR sectors are not required because its land classification as a mineral reservation makes it an area open to mining in accordance with the Mining Act of 1995. The Forest Reserve included most of the rainforests inside the Bauxite Mining Reservation, but excluded "existing recognized claims and private rights." The MPSAs automatically excludes any virgin forests and watershed forest reservations because these areas are closed to mining.

The share of local government does not start and end with the occupation fee of P100 per hectare. On the contrary, the local governments stand to get at least 40 percent of a mining project's excise tax and royalty payments, on top of other taxes. The excise tax and royalty payments are 2 percent and 5 percent of the gross sales, respectively.

It is presumptuous for anyone to conclude that the river systems of Samar will be permanently damaged, let alone the forests, farmlands and fishing grounds

At the time of the interview, my personal view was that it was up to the President and Congress to decide whether to push through with the whole area for the proposed SINP, or excise the portions with high mineral resources but have low biodiversity for mineral resources development.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau will fully adhere to the final position of the DENR on this matter.

—HORACIO C. RAMOS, director, Mines and Geosciences Bureau, mgbcentral@mines-denr.ph

How national are National Artists chosen?

READING NEAL Cruz's column on the National Artist awards (PDI, June 27), I can only shake my head in disbelief in his persistent endorsement of painter Malang and his artist-friends every time the Award is announced. I will not fault Cruz for his loyalty and personal sense of artistry but I take issue with his misrepresentation of the facts on the matter of the selection process.

A cursory reading of the guidelines on the selection process will answer many of Cruz's questions, including those pertaining to who may qualify for or are covered by the Award. Many of the dead artists he mentioned are not covered precisely because of these guidelines. What he should be questioning is the rationale and practicality of the guidelines. I also believe that the coverage should be extended to qualified deceased Filipino artists regardless of the time of death.

In fact, I believe that the NCCA and CCP should work on immediately conferring the honor on all qualified dead artists in one singular proclamation to bury the persistent talks of favoritism and oversight. It is time we honor dead artists who have brought upon the country artistic acclaim and concentrate on the merits of the living. And for Cruz's information, H.R. Ocampo won the Award in 1991.

A more significant line of questioning should have been focused on the nature, relevance and impact of the National Artist award itself. What is sorely lacking in the selection process is a deeper understanding of the repercussions of making choices on the basis of prominence and stature. We forget the concept of "national" in the title of the award. All of the past winners and nominees are presumably excellent artists. But are they "national" in their artistic philosophy and orientation, popular recognition and mass acceptance? Are they or their works known to the vast populace? Do Filipinos find their works relevant to their daily aspirations and sense of creative genius?

The selection process has undergone drastic changes over the years. While the windows for insertion of Malacañang-designated National Artists are still wide open, the arts sector's choices have been relatively democratic—albeit unsettling in certain cases. What should, perhaps, be done is the stricter deployment of members of the council of peers that initially screens nominees. Many of the so called expert-peers do not know or are not familiar with the works of many shortlisted candidates.

For as long as the expert-peer panel remains populated by some people whose concept of a National Artist is limited to the elite and the tag price and prominence that goes with the art work, the likes of Coching—as well as others living or dead artists whose life work continue to inspire and make us proud of being a Filipino including the very popular and innovative singer-composer Yoyoy Villame—will never win the National Artist Award. The Award will continue to be largely irrelevant and lose its target impact on the great majority of Filipinos whose lives art should uplift and become a cause for celebration.

—ELMAR BELTRAN INGLES, executive director, Organisasyon ng Pilipinong Mang-aawit, and Philippine Legitimate Stage Artist Group, Suite 24PB, The Eisenhower Condominium, Eisenhower Street, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila

Proper handling of chickens

THANK YOU for your article about PETA's protest at KFC ("Animal rights group slams fast-food chain for cruelty," 6/20/03). I noticed that no other newspaper printed articles about this controversial, yet important issue.

It upsets me that chickens are treated so badly simply because people like the taste of their flesh. These poor animals are crammed into filthy warehouses with no fresh air or sunlight. Many suffer from respiratory diseases, bacterial infections, crippled legs, heart attacks, and other problems. At the slaughterhouse, their throats are cut and they are often dumped into a scalding tank of boiling water still alive.

Even if people don't want to stop eating chicken, they should at least demand that the animals be treated more humanely. KFC holds the purse strings for their suppliers and can influence how they treat chickens. Any decent company would expect animals to be treated as kindly as possible, yet KFC has shown complete disregard for animal welfare.

—ROMMEL R. MANUEL, Network Development manager, XP3 World Corporation, Suite 904 Prestige Tower, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Ave. Pasig City, Philippines

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

HK solons protest anti-subversion bill

HONG KONG—About 50 pro-democracy legislators and activists marched to Hong Kong's government headquarters on Sunday to protest government plans to push through an anti-subversion bill despite strong public demands for a delay.

On Saturday, Hong Kong's leader, Tung Chee-hwa, announced he would amend several parts of the bill because of widespread opposition, but insisted he still wanted it passed as scheduled on Wednesday. An estimated 500,000 people marched against the bill last Tuesday—the sixth anniversary of Hong Kong's handover from British to Chinese rule.

"Half a million people marched to demand the government to shelve the legislation, and you are still forcing it through," said Yeung Sum, head of the Democratic Party, who organized Sunday's protest.

"Despite the amendments, the government has done too little, too late," Yeung said. "It has totally lost the trust of the people."

Hong Kong's Roman Catholic Church leader, Bishop Joseph Zen, also criticized Tung for failing to understand popular opinion. "We can't imagine that people who marched on July 1 will be satisfied just because of these amendments," Zen said late Saturday.

Beijing lent its support to Tung's embattled government on Sunday, saying that Hong Kong's legislature and the public should cooperate so the bill could be passed on schedule.

Enacting the legislation is the "solemn responsibility of the Hong Kong people," a spokesperson of the National People's Congress, China's legislature, was quoted as saying by the official Xinhua News Agency.

Many people in Hong Kong fear the bill will threaten the territory's freedoms of speech, press and assembly. But Tung insists the civil liberties will remain intact after passage of the bill, which outlaws subversion, treason, sedition and other crimes against the state and calls for life in prison for some offenses.

The government released the text of the new amendments late Saturday, and opposition lawmakers and some journalists on Sunday criticized the changes as inadequate.

Tung had said a clause prohibiting journalists from revealing official secrets would be amended to allow reporters to justify the publication of ones which they can prove are in the public interest.

But the actual text of the amendment limits disclosures to four areas—official wrongdoing, serious threats to public order, public security and public health.

"This will narrow down the areas in which the media can use the public interest defense," said James To, another Democrat and lawyer.

Tung also agreed to scrap provisions permitting Hong Kong to outlaw local branches of groups banned in mainland China on national security grounds, and allowing police searches without warrants. *AP*

Taiwan marks SARS-free status with street parade

TAIPEI—A jubilant Taiwan celebrated its official SARS-free status on Sunday with champagne and dancing in the streets while the island's businesses hunkered down to plot its economic revitalization.

A parade through the capital, Taipei, gathered more than 1,000 people including student marching bands and revelers dressed as cartoon characters to trumpet the island's success in beating Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

Students from southern Yunlin clad in traditional Chinese apparel filled the square of the Presidential Office, gyrating to pounding drum beats to mark the official removal of Taiwan from the World Health Organization list of areas affected by SARS.

Taipei was packed with residents taking unmasked breaths of fresh air, free from worry of infection by the pneumonia-like respiratory virus that killed 84 people from 674 infections on the island since mid-March.

"I have stayed at home for a long time. It's really nice to get fresh air outside," an unnamed woman told cable television.

Taipei Mayor Ma Ying-jeou donned a peaked witch's cap and cape to help merchants on Tali street lure back customers. He had been among revelers late Saturday who downed champagne to the flash of fireworks outside the Wanhua night market, a landmark spot for hundreds of thousands of foreign tourists a year.

"Taiwan has been removed by the World Health Organization from the affected-area of SARS. So feel free and feel safe to come to Taipei," Ma said.

Top Taiwan dailies the United Daily News, China Times and Liberty Times, splashed the parties on their front pages, including congratulations offered by Premier Yu Shyi-kun. *AFP*

Junta won't back down on Suu Kyi

RANGOON—Burma's junta launched vitriolic new attacks on opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and Rangoon's diplomatic community on Sunday, in a clear indication it will not back down in the row over her detention.

In an ominous sign for hopes of reconciliation in Burma (Myanmar), the official press ran a series of commentaries portraying Aung San Suu Kyi as inflexible and under the influence of foreign powers.

"Auntie Suu is a willful and hardheaded person liable to rash judgments followed by blind action in her relations with the present government," said the first commentary, purportedly written by a disenchanted member of her opposition National League for Democracy party.

A second article Sunday by the same disenchanted NLD supporter described Aung San Suu Kyi as autocratic and vain, and bent on causing trouble during recent political tours around the country—one of which triggered her detention on May 30.

"I discovered that Auntie Suu's sudden changes in attitude from flexible to hard line almost always coincided with the increase in the number of visits of meddlesome foreigners," it said. *AFP*

'Just for the books'

TAIPEI—A young Taiwanese female author nabbed by police on charges of soliciting for prostitution, says she was offering herself for sexual services to enrich her experience for her books, police said.

The 26-year-old woman identified only by her surname, Chen, was busted in a raid late Saturday when police broke into an apartment and found the scantily-clad woman in a compromising position.

In her confession, Chen said she was not providing "full" sexual services but was allowing clients to caress her for an hourly wage of 900 Taiwan dollars ($26).

Chen said she was the author of three science fiction books, one of which won a literature award from a local youth group. *AFP*

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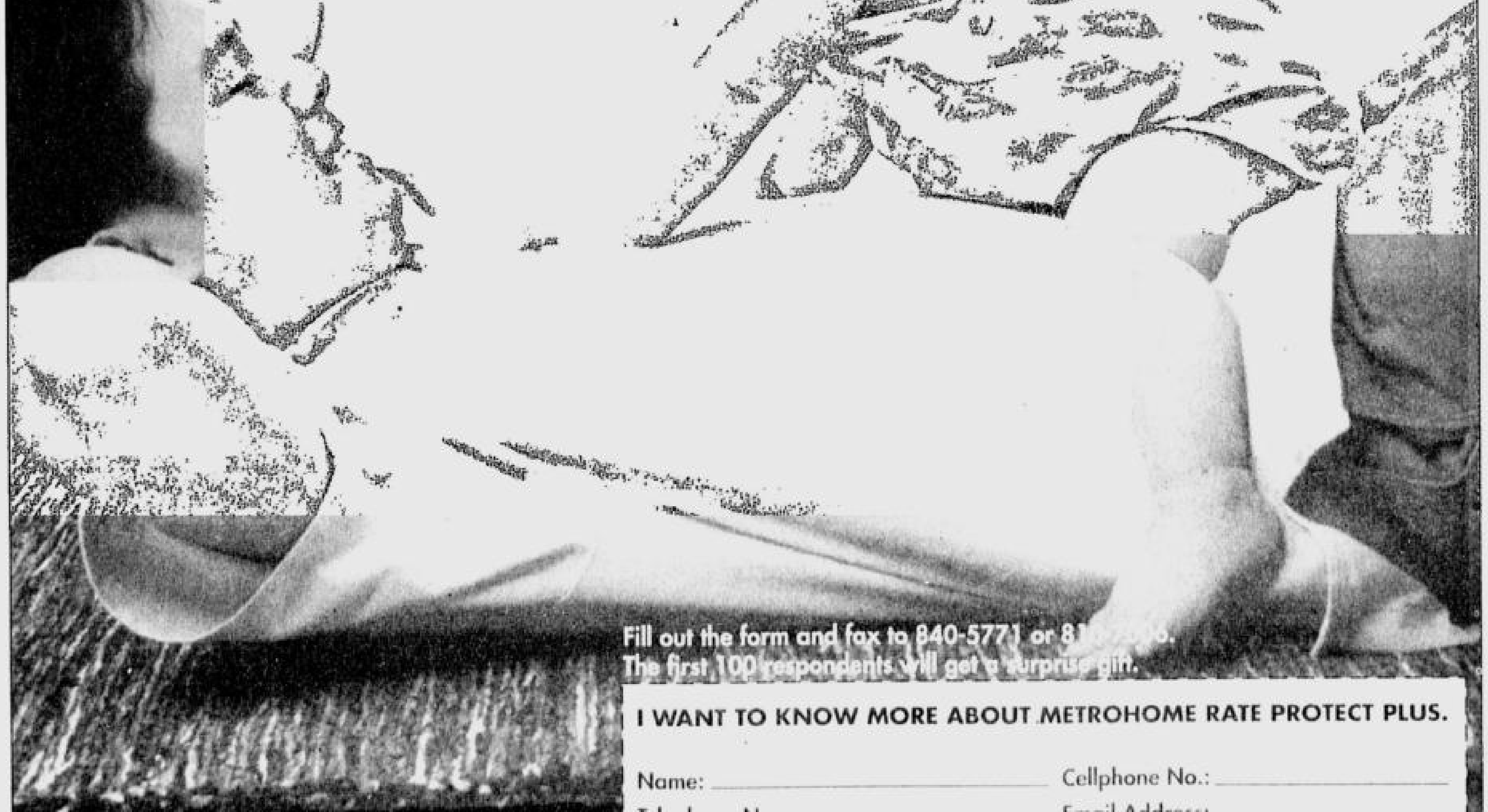

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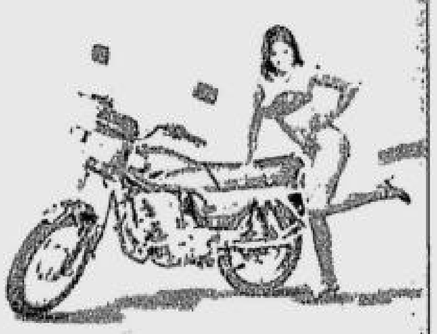

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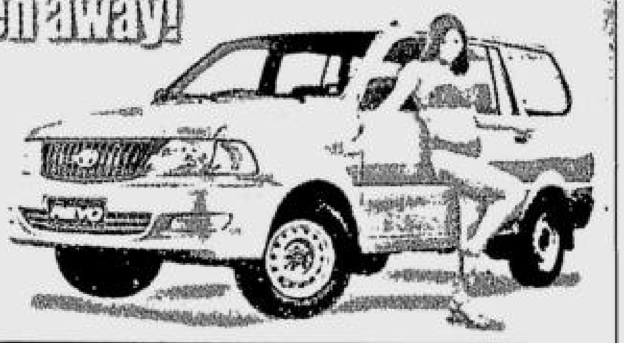

(4) FIRST PRIZES TOYOTA Altis 1.6M/T

GMA

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LUZON

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Butong, Taal, Batangas
65 yrs old

VISAYAS

Isidora Tayong
Capitol Site, Daro, Dumaguete City
42 yrs old

MINDANAO

Consolacion Donje
5047 Quilisadio Subd., New V-Sayas,
Panabo City 47 yrs old

(8) SECOND PRIZES TOYOTA Revo DLX Diesel M/T

GMA

Benedict J. Poblete
413 D. Masilang St., Pineda, Pasig
City 32 yrs old

Jojo B. Gorospe
14-A 6th Ave., Murphy, Q. C.
25 yrs old

LUZON

Editha T. Soriano
15-B Ruyu Highway, Tuguegarao City
18 yrs old

Eleanor P. Chua
Ubaliw, Polungin, Albay
41 yrs old

VISAYAS

Marita Domael
Sapa Subangdaku, Mandaue City
40 yrs old

Rommel Magillano
Oval, Exodus Ave., Panubigan Canlaon
City, Negros Oriental 37 yrs old

MINDANAO

Jorge Ballesteros
Purok Antorium, Espina St., Surigao
City 37 yrs old

Danielo T. Larase
Claver, Surigao Norte
48 yrs old

(16) THIRD PRIZES Falcon Motorcycle 150cc

GMA

Melecia Herrero
77 De Guzman St., I.V.C. Olandes,
Marikina City 50 yrs old

Adelina F. Manalo
44-C M.L. Quezon St., Poblacion,
Teresa, Rizal 54 yrs old

Joebel S. Bolvar
109 V. Purok I Cupang, Muntinlupa
City 33 yrs old

Erlinda Mercado
4054-A Policarpio St., Gen. T. de Leon,
Valenzuela City 45 yrs old

LUZON

Nilda L. Argayoso
222 P. Zamora St., Bgy. San Miguel,
Majayjay, Laguna 37 yrs old

Francia R. Palencia
Balinad, Polangui, Albay
45 yrs old

Wilfredo B. Barcelon
Honeybee Music Bar, Penaranda St.,
Legaspi City 55 yrs old

Teresa P. Batalla
M.B. Torre St., Bgy. 8 Bacacay, Albay
39 yrs old

VISAYAS

Agnes F. Malte
2 Mabini St., Lapaz, Iloilo City
43 yrs old

Josie E. Delicana
West Poblacion, Bacong, Negros
Oriental 39 yrs old

Dominica V. Pacardo
Dalid, Sta. Barbara, Iloilo City
34 yrs old

Mari Ruth M. Alkonga
ADA Hills Lane, San Dionisio, Iloilo
City 18 yrs old

MINDANAO

Rufino J. de Leon
13 Datu Abeng St., Calinan, Davao
City 58 yrs old

Avelino Q. Ledesma, Jr.
26 Barrientos St., Oroquieta City,
Misamis Occ. 40 yrs old

Oliver G. Sanubas
Pob. Claveria, Misamis Oriental
32 yrs old

Maricor Cagampang
Sto. Nino, Gotamco Bgy., L. Garcia
St., Agdao, Davao City 37 yrs old

(16) FOURTH PRIZES Pioneer Home Theater

GMA

Roxanne R. Benito
[illegible] Mabini and Palmera St., Taytay
Rizal 25 yrs old

Rose G. Idalo
[illegible] San Miguel, Bulacan
21 yrs old

Nestor L. Ylarde
4 Ilaya St., Marikina Village, Nangka
Marikina 43 yrs old

Roberto A. Estil
[illegible] St., Bgy. [illegible]
GMA, Cavite 36 yrs old

LUZON

Ruben I. Martinez
Santiago, Iriga City
67 yrs old

Wedy N. Avisado
[illegible] Sorsogon
44 yrs old

Michelle Rosales
[illegible]
Pamplona, Camarines Sur 21 yrs old

Raul O. Literal
[illegible]
Albay 42 yrs old

Llenullyn M. Banday
[illegible]
Mandalagan, Bacolod City 62 yrs old

Loreta T. Lim
[illegible] Oriental Loon, Bohol
[illegible] yrs old

Analiza D. Toquero
[illegible] Cebu
32 yrs old

Percival C. Cudal
[illegible]
City [illegible] yrs old

N

Ronie Apawan
[illegible] Zamboanga
Sibugay 54 yrs old

Aida A. Caubat
[illegible] Davao City
52 yrs old

Thelma Tamparang
[illegible]
Iligan City 57 yrs old

Estela C. Ungab
[illegible] City,
Misamis Occ. 54 yrs old

(32) FIFTH PRIZES Pioneer VCD Component

GMA

Josephine S. Balbas
Blk. 7 Lot 3 [illegible] Compound, Ampid 1
San Mateo, Rizal 38 yrs old

Dennis A. Galicia
[illegible]
Western Bicutan, Taguig, Manila 39 yrs old

Wilfredo C. Monje
[illegible] Rizal
49 yrs old

Gina Calapao
[illegible] Meycauayan, Bulacan
37 yrs old

Jimmy Continedas
[illegible] Quezon City
49 yrs old

Rogaciano R. Wilson
2244 [illegible] St., Malate
Manila 72 yrs old

Gemma R. Beronio
Barangay [illegible] Rizal
37 yrs old

Amelia T. de la Cruz
[illegible] Navotas
Metro Manila 50 yrs old

LUZON

Ben dela Cruz
[illegible] Lucena
City 53 yrs old

Bambi Castaneda
San Francisco, Buhi, Camarines Sur
34 yrs old

Jonathan Del Agua
Bgy. [illegible]
40 yrs old

Floribeth Balbosa
[illegible]
20 yrs old

Leonegildo San Pablo
San Agustin, Libon, Albay
49 yrs old

Peter Sampayan
[illegible]
35 yrs old

Manuelito C. Gaw
[illegible]
Solano, Nueva Vizcaya 65 yrs old

Norberto Negrillo
San Juan [illegible]
36 yrs old

Nestor Loreno
Bgy. [illegible]
50 yrs old

Emily Ann Yap
#1 [illegible] St., Bgy. [illegible] Bacolod
City 37 yrs old

Affra C. Pacquiao
[illegible]
47 yrs old

Clarence Abella
[illegible]
58 yrs old

Heidi C. Padios
San [illegible] Iloilo
47 yrs old

Marilou C. Muller
[illegible]
[illegible] yrs old

Jerio Julio G. Melo
Blk. 41 [illegible]
Abucay, Tacloban City 45 yrs old

Prima A. Acedillo
Bgy. [illegible] Eastern Samar
54 yrs old

Wilfredo Espiel
[illegible]
[illegible] yrs old

Ma. Nova F. Fiel
[illegible] Ave., Miputak, Dipolog
City 33 yrs old

Nason S. Galvez
[illegible] Maguindanao
30 yrs old

Vilma D. Gumagay
[illegible]
City [illegible] yrs old

Domingo Ontolan
[illegible]
del Norte 42 yrs old

Virginia A. Pugoy
[illegible] Butuan City
[illegible] yrs old

Teofilo Ribote
[illegible] South Cotabato
[illegible] yrs old

David D. Somera
[illegible] City
63 yrs old

(32) SIXTH PRIZES GE Refrigerator 9 cu. ft.

GMA

Fely G. Palero
[illegible]
Pasig City 33 yrs old

Erson Ople
[illegible]
Rizal 26 yrs old

Benito H. Anievas, Jr.
[illegible]
Bgy. San Luis, Antipolo City 60 yrs old

Fernando C. Famero
[illegible] Makati
City 37 yrs old

Renato C. Ona
Blk. 7 Lot 10 [illegible] Subd.
Ampid 1, San Mateo, Rizal 48 yrs old

Jocelyn D. Lovidad
[illegible]
41 yrs old

Efren Bancoro
[illegible] Taal, Batangas
49 yrs old

Romulo de Luna
[illegible]
Macaria Village, Binan, Laguna 65 yrs old

LUZON

Salvacion Villegas
Bgy. [illegible]
Camarines Sur 38 yrs old

Romeo C. Tulagan
[illegible]
44 yrs old

Erlinda V. Vicente
[illegible]
47 yrs old

Rodrigo R. Hufana
[illegible] San Fernando City, La
Union 48 yrs old

Rita R. Beltran
[illegible] City
48 yrs old

Celia E. Ceguera
[illegible]
53 yrs old

Martin Arias, Jr.
[illegible] Albay
55 yrs old

Jascell Palomares
[illegible]
20 yrs old

Teresita David
Bgy. [illegible]
50 yrs old

Joselito Endina
[illegible]
20 yrs old

Leonora Parambita
[illegible]
Catbalogan, Samar 48 yrs old

Oscar Tagailo
[illegible]
54 yrs old

Medy F. Bokingkito
[illegible]
31 yrs old

Rosela Burio
[illegible]
63 yrs old

Nanito M. Gamboa
[illegible]
71 yrs old

Lydia Agosto
[illegible] Negros
48 yrs old

Abdulla Abdulrazak
[illegible]
34 yrs old

Rogelio De los Santos
[illegible] South Cotabato
42 yrs old

Gloria L. Denore
[illegible]
30 yrs old

Jessie C. Libradilla
[illegible]
del Norte 32 yrs old

Benedict B. Luy
[illegible]
Zamboanga City 28 yrs old

Juanito One
[illegible] Davao City
32 yrs old

Arturo M. Salabas
[illegible]
del Norte 52 yrs old

Sarah C. Tagalog
[illegible]
39 yrs old

(32) SEVENTH PRIZES PIONEER DVD Player

GMA

Vilma Bedin
[illegible] Binan
Laguna 57 years old

Fe S. Gutierrez
[illegible]
Olongapo City 49 yrs old

Rowena Z. Andrada
[illegible]
Caloocan City 31 yrs old

Chuchie Dichosa
[illegible]
Manuyo 2, Las Pinas City 30 yrs old

Dinia V. Asegurado
Bgy. [illegible]
52 yrs old

Editha Baylon
Bgy. [illegible]
Batangas 52 yrs old

Cecilia Q. Remando
[illegible]
Dasmarinas, Cavite 36 yrs old

Venus P. Marzan
[illegible]
Bamban, Tarlac 23 yrs old

LUZON

Jaya M. Porteria
[illegible] Camarines Sur
21 yrs old

Genaro M. Navarro
[illegible]
Pangasinan 57 yrs old

Rolando Sto. Domingo
[illegible] Albay
56 yrs old

Imelda E. Mariano
[illegible] Camarines Sur
33 yrs old

Anelyn M. Yadao
Bgy. [illegible]
32 yrs old

Mark Norman Cacayan
Poblacion [illegible] Nueva Vizcaya
20 yrs old

Daisy A. Dioneda
[illegible]
47 yrs old

Rosa R. Bernales
[illegible]
67 yrs old

VISAYAS

Maria Leonora Gamboa
Blk. 15 Lot 12 Phase 1 Grand [illegible] Subd.
Mansilingan, Bacolod [illegible] yrs old

Junard S. Villarico
[illegible]
18 yrs old

Miguel A. Macatunog
[illegible] Dumaguete [illegible]
51 yrs old

Michel T. Jordan
[illegible] Negros
Oriental 24 yrs old

Cecilia Virtudes
[illegible]
51 yrs old

Priscilla P. Lacson
[illegible]
City, Negros Occ. 74 yrs old

Vivien V. Vercede
[illegible]
Cebu City [illegible] yrs old

Ligaya C. Congreso
Bgy. [illegible]
38 yrs old

Jessica P. Diocales
[illegible]
City 39 yrs old

Angelita T. Francas
[illegible]
41 yrs old

Basir A. Kasim
Bgy. [illegible] Zamboanga
City 37 yrs old

Perla G. Llamoso
[illegible] Cagayan
de Oro City 56 yrs old

Tita V. Pepania
[illegible] Sibugay
42 yrs old

Rio R. Pitogo
[illegible] Iligan City
24 yrs old

Lilia Repulle
[illegible] del Sur
[illegible] yrs old

Francisco Tajulado
[illegible]
50 yrs old

DOH-BFAD nO. 0252-2003

Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

(128) EIGHTH PRIZES NOKIA 3315 w/ Globe Phonekit

GMA

Rodolfo D. Depusoy
Unit 2 BLISS Site Bgy. Sumlang Calauag Quezon 55 yrs old

Jose L. Magpantay
Janopol Occ., Tanauan City, Batangas 65 yrs old

Victor Ngo
Unit 2 201 F. Benitez St., San Juan, Metro Manila 46 yrs old

Vicky E. Catinggan
Gun-awayan, Placer, Masbate 35 yrs old

Joel Ballaso
400 Solana St., Intramuros, Manila 24 yrs old

Domingo R. Ferrer
023 Bgy. Panaudahan 1 Tanza, Cavite 51 yrs old

Cesar de Asis
1108 Vergara St. Quezon City 64 yrs old

Rolando P. Paspe
307 Habana St. Vulcan Punta Sta. Ana, Manila 42 yrs old

Cecilia D. Valera
441 Island Subd., Lungus, Bacoor Cavite 43 yrs old

Teresita Aquitania
Lot 14 Blk 49 Gen. Ordonez St., Marikina Heights, Marikina 50 yrs old

Ranel T. Alvasan
Iba Tayuman (Busdak) San Francisco Quezon 26 yrs old

Fernando Resuello
Sulok Nagbalon, Marilao, Bulacan 28 yrs old

Leon M. Salivio
B 26 L 25 Queen's Row East, Bacoor Cavite 65 yrs old

Marlon Magallanes
B5 L35 Golden City, Canlalay, Binan Laguna 71 yrs old

Nicolas de Guzman
154 Maria Myrna Villa, Giona, Angeles City 82 yrs old

Jeffrey R. de la Torre
376 Sto. Domingo II, Capas, Tarlac 20 yrs old

Rotillo M. Delasan
165 Lolok Rd. Nagbunga San Marcelino Zambales 70 yrs old

Hermogenes Mallari
70 Fidela Subd. II, Arayat, Pampanga 45 yrs old

Ricardo P. Templado
16 A Mario Hospital, Canlubang Laguna 56 yrs old

Wilfredo B. Decena
49 Duhat St. Phase 6 A. Greenwoods Executive Village Cainta Rizal 47 yrs old

Loida Trajano
37 Poblacion, Valenzuela City 33 yrs old

Dominga Salazar
Bgy. Batubal Sariaya Quezon 84 yrs old

Benjamin Galano
29 Sampaguita St. Bagong Barrio Caloocan City 49 yrs old

Pedro Narbato
Purok 4 Barrio Tranka Bay Laguna 39 yrs old

Primo M. Tucio
372 Ronquillo St. Sta. Cruz Cavite City 47 yrs old

Vicente M. Reyes
Rizal St. Romblon, Romblon 30 yrs old

Eduardo C. Mesa
116 Mayon St., Wawa Libis, Binangonan 35 yrs old

Antonio P. Tirona
1614 Kalimbas St., Sta. Cruz Manila 39 yrs old

Virgilio R. Ibarreta
3072 Gen. Luna St., Bangkal, Makati City 42 yrs old

Jonathan Bautista
1184 Meding St., Malate, Manila 24 yrs old

Alexander de Gula
8 Tahimik St., Sta. Ana, Taguig 40 yrs old

Rolando Desagago
2246 Modesto St., San Andres, Malate, Manila 43 yrs old

LUZON

Marilou A. Santiago
Metroville, Sabang Naga City 28 yrs old

Augusto Nepumoceno, Sr.
Zone 1 San Vicente, Pamplona Camarines Sur 40 yrs old

Nicanor Brimbuela
Salingogon, Minalabac, Camarines Sur 37 yrs old

Araceli C. Soriano
53 Gov. Crisanto St., San Francisco Iriga City 67 yrs old

Virgilio S. Pineda
Sagrada Hamaaao, Pili, Camarines Sur 63 yrs old

Noblito S. dela Cruz, Jr.
73 Bgy. Amanoaoac, Mapandan Pangasinan 37 yrs old

Tirso D. Tuaran
San Leonardo, Aglipay, Quirino Prov. 33 yrs old

Rodolfo C. Calderon
San Miguel Luna, Isabela 39 yrs old

Remedios Dumaday
Sarsaracat, Maysingal, Ilocos Sur 49 yrs old

Sotero Benedicto C. Pascual
Bgy. 49 B Raraburan, Laoag City 43 yrs old

Geoffrey Domingo
Bgy. Nangnama, Sinait, Ilocos Sur 30 yrs old

Samuel O. Guropa
San Nicholas, San Esteban, Ilocos Sur 46 yrs old

Aurora M. Doria
317 Caranl District, Dagupan City 45 yrs old

Joseph V. Soliven
Uyong, Labrador, Pangasinan 23 yrs old

Virginia Moral
Zone 2 Pier Site, Bulan, Sorsogon 37 yrs old

Arnel Sandagon
P-3 Sto. Cristo, Tabaco City 22 yrs old

Perla N. Padua
Diversion Rd. San Francisco, Guinobatan Albay 30 yrs old

Florante Manrique
Balogног, Camalig, Albay 51 yrs old

Guillermo E. Bo
12 Ilaor Sur, Oas, Albay 48 yrs old

Fidel S. Ternida
Licim, San Andres, Catanduanes 46 yrs old

Emmanuel U. Firaza
Avila Subd. Maroroy, Daraga, Albay 51 yrs old

Monina Belgica
San Roque, Tabaco City 49 yrs old

Juan V. Jaucian
Mabini St., Newtown, Ligao City, Albay 67 yrs old

Lydia D. Yap
661 UHS East Washington Drive, Legazpi City 55 yrs old

Genilyn D. Espinas
Zone 1 Hanawan, Minalabac Camarines Sur 22 yrs old

Pepito L. Amabillo
Cawayan Bolod Baleto Tenambac, Camarines Sur 30 yrs old

Raquel M. Romero
2-4 Del Rosario, Naga City 30 yrs old

Wilma N. Zamodio
Lourdes, Lalamban, Buhi, Camarines Sur 30 yrs old

Norma B. Inacay
85 San Pantaleon, Magarao, Camarines Sur 58 yrs old

Rosalino I. Rosanes, Sr.
Agpo Lagonoy Camarines Sur 49 yrs old

Nenett C. Formalejo
San Rafael, Tigaon, Camarines Sur 25 yrs old

Michael Y. Guiruela
79-3 Dayangdang Zone 5, Naga City 25 yrs old

VISAYAS

Carmencia Bascon
214 D Jakosalem St., Cebu City 20 yrs old

Eriberto C. Benitez
Maracas, Lahug, Cebu 58 yrs old

Uldarico O. Codillero, Jr.
Cabantuhas Comp., Sabellano St. Cebu City 48 yrs old

Hilaria R. Alcares
Argao, Cebu 65 yrs old

Sulpicio D. Nadela
Guadalupe Church Comp. Guadalupe, Cebu 50 yrs old

Generoso Ramirez
74 San Lorenzo Ruiz St., Nula-Tula Tacloban City 49 yrs old

Jennalyn T. Mendoza
c/o Astra Mart P. Burgos St. Tacloban City 23 yrs old

Anacorita B. Talle
Lourdes St. Bgy. 85 San Jose Tacloban City 53 yrs old

Anecito L. Ladesma
Sitio Mahagn Poblacion Sur Carmen, Bohol 21 yrs old

Joel D. Clerigo
Tangnan Panglao Bohol 32 yrs old

Rolly Burio
Tabuc Sur, Panit-an, Capiz 36 yrs old

Jaime B. De Borja
Bgy. Alipio, Mambusao, Capiz 45 yrs old

Patricio P. Badon
Lo-oc, Giga-on Siaton, Negros Oriental 40 yrs old

Jeafred V. Aragon
231 Pacifico Quindo St., Bayawan City Negros Oriental 30 yrs old

Amecita D. Bado
Pob. Norte Maria, Siquijor 45 yrs old

Carlo B. Hedriana
11 S. De Leon St., Victorias City, Negros Occ. 28 yrs old

Ronaldo C. Zabate
c/o LTI Glassware Div. Hipodo Labra St. Guadalupe Cebu 40 yrs old

Rodelyn F. Llorico
#0406 Gorordo Ave., Lahug, Cebu City 24 yrs old

Cresencia P. Lynk
84 A T. Abella St., San Nicolas, Cebu 54 yrs old

Paciencia Lozada
Centro Labogon Mandaue City 52 yrs old

Desiree Bernado
Mandayong Badian, Cebu 20 yrs old

Rolando J. Lagmay
Bgy. 3 Campalas St., San Julian Eastern Samar 51 yrs old

Mateo Eredera Jr.
c/o Pepros Barotac Viejo, Iloilo 22 yrs old

Helen Hiponia
Bgy. Biluan Jaro Iloilo 43 yrs old

Ann Cristine Ardiente
Socorro St. San Enrique Iloilo 21 yrs old

Grace Fantilanan
Concepcion Dumalag, Capiz 21 yrs old

Gertrudes Ramirez
Zamdeco Zamboanguita Negros Oriental 42 yrs old

Imelda M. Osorio
San Juan St. (Fire Station) Bgy. 8 Bacolod City 43 yrs old

Teodoro D. Marfil
Bgy. RSB/Consuelo, La Carlota City, Negros Occ. 65 yrs old

Lourdes L. Tabella
Sitio Cabug Silay City, Negros Occ. 62 yrs old

Jose Arguelles
Hda. Paz Jesun La Carlota City, Negros Occ. 56 yrs old

Estela S. Velasco
Sibulan Country Homes Blk. 11 Lot 26 Maslog Sibulan Negros Oriental 42 yrs old

MINDANAO

Rubiruso A. Acebedo
Purok 3 San Sindangan Zamboanga del Norte 33 yrs old

Sirril M. Aminulla
03 Sta. Catalina St., Zamboanga City 44 yrs old

Vilma L. Andrada
Tagn Sumpto del Sur c/o Sunlight Mktg. Tandag 44 yrs old

William Andres
Purok 10 Bagsak Villafuerte St., Calinan, Davao 37 yrs old

Samson T. Baldomar
Km. 4 San Antonio, Bajada, Davao City 52 yrs old

Antonette Dilao
Madonna & Child Hosp., J.V. Serina St. Carmen CDO 23 yrs old

Eduardo Garcia
Jurase Ext. Cathedral Vill. Calumpang Gen. Santos City 40 yrs old

Joseph G. Guinita
Bansalan, Davao del Sur 38 yrs old

Chona Guiritan
5.18 B1 Puntod Cagayan de Oro City 21 yrs old

Myrna A. Gulle
Kibengsed Magsaysay Misamis Oriental 45 yrs old

Jocelyn M. Mayan
P. 2 Rizal Buenavista Agusan del Norte 24 yrs old

William Millares
Lomugdang Subd., Kidapawan City 55 yrs old

Wilhelmina Penalosa
453 Purok Camia Mesfuentes Bgy. North Tagum 41 yrs old

Gemma A. Polintan
San Teodoro, Bunawan, Agusan del Sur 34 yrs old

Letecia Preciado
7208 Eastern Pob., Lopez, Misamis Occ. 37 yrs old

Marina Villanueva
Rizal Ave. Kalanan, Cotabato City 51 yrs old

Quenne Batoctoy
22 Osmena St. Barong Dipolog City 24 yrs old

Juanita Cabrera
Purok Mabantex Mangga Visayan Vill. Tagum City 42 yrs old

Jeffrey John Casla
B3 Old San Isidro, Buhangin, Davao City 20 yrs old

Dennis T. Dela Cruz
Purok 6 Hernandez St. Pob. Monkayo, Compostela Valley Prov. 46 yrs old

Pedrita Dequit
Luyong Baybayon Molabon Talisayan Misamis Oriental 48 yrs old

Melba R. Gusenalem
B7 L1 Rosalina Vill. J. Torres, Davao City 37 yrs old

Jessie Jane Hangka
Purok 2 A Tambacan Iligan City 23 yrs old

Janit S. Labapis
Banadero Hway, Ozamis City 19 yrs old

Cristina M. Lumague
50 Taqui St. Pob. 1 Pigcawayan Cotabato City 49 yrs old

Alex D. Maratas
Purok Maduklot Bgy. Pagtium, Dumalinao, Zamboanga del Sur 41 yrs old

Virginia A. Pugoy
P. 2 Poblacion Bukidnon City 31 yrs old

Marybel Refugio
147 Quezon Ave., Dipolog City 32 yrs old

Angel Reposar
Sta. Clara, Naga Zamboanga Sibugay 51 yrs old

Antonio Sebag
Purok 2 Kalasan, Pagadian City 61 yrs old

Lionel F. Villanueva
Upper San Roque, Zamboanga City 21 yrs old

Zosimo C. Villanueva
27 M.V. Lopez St., Butuan City 49 yrs old

(256) NINTH PRIZES GE Microwave Oven 6 cu. ft.

GMA

Arnel T. Valencia
1390 Mactan St. Baclaran, Paranaque City 34 yrs old

Samuel B. Ortizo
4D-A Palon St., Caloocan City 43 yrs old

Rudy C. Lovendino
36 C Liwayway St. Bayan-Bayanan Malabon City 25 yrs old

Alex G. Diosmano
26 Tumbo St., BF Homes, Paranaque 46 yrs old

Noel O. Bohol
Blk. 31 Lot 10 Bgy. San Isidro Labrador I DBB Cavite City 42 yrs old

Jose Ronnie Numeron
2 Int. A-B Sitio 7 No. 66 Libis, Quezon City 33 yrs old

Marivic Lozada
2050 Velonco Ave. cor. Peron St., Napico Manggahan Pasig 32 yrs old

Michael C. Uy
476 F. Boni Ave., Mandaluyong City 43 yrs old

Romulo Carlit
173 Dalandan St. cor. T. Alonzo Ext. Bgy. West Rembo Makati 51 yrs old

Rey Bustamante
12 Kapitan Moyong St., San Roque Marikina 33 yrs old

Ramil L. Sinson
3 Corteza Court Alonzo St. Dalahican Cavite 45 yrs old

Diosdado Macabenta
268 Tramo Bantayan, Binakayan Kawit Cavite 48 yrs old

Catalino Sarwelas Jr.
Bgy. Miguel Mojica Mendez, Cavite 25 yrs old

Domingo C. Rejuso
King Mills Inc. 20F Pasco Ave., Bo. Santolan Pasig City 41 yrs old

Virgilio T. Muralla
B25 L7 Phase 5 A Buhain Silang Cavite 49 yrs old

Salvador E. Endaya
Bgy. Pupung Sitio 4 Sta. Cruz Laguna 67 yrs old

Jorge A. Antonis, Jr.
Purok 1 Bgy. Mardot Dipaculao Aurora Province 63 yrs old

Manuel R. Fadul
7 J. P. Rizal St. Bgy. 3 Ermita Paete, Laguna 58 yrs old

Bienvenido S. Bonete
30 Purok 1 Ensol, Calamba, Laguna 39 yrs old

Francisco C. Manalo
Masalipit San Miguel Bulacan 39 yrs old

Ismael Panulaya Jr.
6 Chestnut St. New Marikina Subd. Marikina 32 yrs old

Dennis P. Sangalang
211 Ovenes Comp. Sitio de Asis Bgy. San Martin Paranaque 18 yrs old

Romie S. Naduma
c/o Gina Guay 1351 La Torre St., Tondo Manila 13 yrs old

Nelson M. Cuajao
3667 Balas St. Bacood Sta. Mesa Manila 33 yrs old

Edison Gondra
Kasile Binangonan Rizal 25 yrs old

Jean de la Cruz
404 Nepomuceno St. Tondo Manila 28 yrs old

Tiburcio R. Rodriguez
505 Resurrection St. Saint Gregory Vill. Cainta Rizal 55 yrs old

Manuel T. Lee
1623 E. Remigio St. Sta. Cruz Manila 61 yrs old

Ernesto Concepcion
240 Arellano St. Bgy. San Agustin Malabon 71 yrs old

Romeo Melicado
654 Boni Ave., Mandaluyong City 41 yrs old

Marilou Soriano
82 Camp Tinio, Cabanatuan City 43 yrs old

Rogelio Gonda Jr.
536 BLISS Proj. Sapang Bato Angeles City 38 yrs old

Susan R. Morales
Lot 3 Kapihan St., Cupang, Balanga City 42 yrs old

Francis Noel Santos
14 J.M. Espino Ave. Poblacion Arayat, Pampanga 43 yrs old

Alex A. De La Cruz
Purok 3 Bgy. Cabucbucan Rizal, Nueva Ecija 40 yrs old

Rizalino G. Peralta
384 Pambuan Gapan City, Nueva Ecija 33 yrs old

Julito Tapispisan
Guevara La Paz Tarlac 49 yrs old

Cesar Pantaleon Jr.
258 Wawa Abucay, Bataan 41 yrs old

Regalado Budoso
Sta. Maria Minalin, Pampanga 55 yrs old

Gregorio Sanguyo
72 Maysim San Rafael Bulacan 51 yrs old

Percy Baltazar
48 F Balingasa St., Balintawak Quezon City 51 yrs old

Edmundo C. Lepura
Area 2 Blk. 7 Lot 4 Rose St., Bgy. Capri Novaliches 52 yrs old

Noah I. Torres
B96 5 Diamond St. Soldier's Hill III, 1477 Tala Caloocan City 18 yrs old

Renato Leonor
Blk. 119 L13 M.H. del Pilar St. Bgy. Rizal Makati City 48 yrs old

Vicente Avecilla
Bgy. Ilayang Dupay Lucena City 49 yrs old

Melchor Manza
Bgy. Sta. Teresa Lopez Quezon 29 yrs old

Alfonso Alvez
Samsim Sta. Teresita Batangas 27 yrs old

Eugenio Laygo
14 G Lalay St. Lipa Batangas 72 yrs old

Efren Velasquez
140 Pasilo Campupot Zapote Uno, Bacoor Cavite 56 yrs old

Donata Alcantara
246 Sabang Dasmarinas, Cavite 52 yrs old

Jeffrey C. Cunanan
495 Dulong St. Lawy Capas, Tarlac 20 yrs old

Alberto C. Lacuna
36 Sauyo Ext. Tandang Sora Quezon City 41 yrs old

Perfecto R. Quiaoit III
57 B Cubabillo St. Bago Bantay, Quezon City 39 yrs old

Joel F. Angel
16 Bungahan Ampid 2 San Mateo Rizal 34 yrs old

Jesus Bajas, Jr.
Tawid Sapa 2 PH 2 Kaligayahan, Novaliches Quezon City 55 yrs old

Emmanuel Olvido
134 J.P. Rizal St. Sto. Nino Marikina City 27 yrs old

Domingo P. Braga
86 Santiago St., SFDM Quezon City 53 yrs old

Lamberto S. Villaranda
7-K 7th St., Kamuning Quezon City 34 yrs old

Conrad Mangle
NSO EDSA cor. Times St. West Triangle Vibal Bldg. Q.C. 63 yrs old

Faustino M. Gamboa
35 Samonte St. Bgy. Holy Spirit Diliman Q.C. 53 yrs old

Danilo J. Rivano
Hiraya Sokamville Subd. Lucena City 32 yrs old

Cristina B. Cancino
4510 Sitio Rustan Bgy. Landayan San Pedro, Laguna 27 yrs old

Jeramil M. Joson
6793 St. Bernadette St. Maligaya Subd. Caloocan City 36 yrs old

Ferdinand P. Borras
341 San Juan ACFFA Cabanatuan City [illegible] 32 yrs old

LUZON

Teresita Bola
Sto. Cristo Tabaco City 35 yrs old

Josephine Espinosa
San Francisco, Bulan, Sorsogon 26 yrs old

Pamela Enteria
No. 10 Pedcor Bldg. Zamora St. Sabang Naga City 31 yrs old

Christian Rey Barrameda
Zone 7, Hamataan, Minalabac, Camarines Sur 23 yrs old

Benigna B. Binondo
Salvacion Baybay Calabanga, Camarines Sur 34 yrs old

Romulo V. Francisco
Rio Vil. Manupit, Camaligan Camarines Sur 48 yrs old

Erlinda Blanco
143 San Isidro Magarao, Camarines Sur 34 yrs old

Oliveros T. Lorris
21 San Juan Ave., Sipolot, Camarines Sur 35 yrs old

Rommel Nino Taduran
Cocktails And Barrels, Banco Filipino Bldg. Highway 1 Iriga City 28 yrs old

Wilson Idanan
Z 5 Langon Calabayan Naga City 20 yrs old

Sonia S. Carino
31 Concepcion Grande Naga City 45 yrs old

Hermogenes Boc
85 San Pantaleon Magarao, Camarines Sur 46 yrs old

Marcial A. Disuanco
26 Swan St. RJ Vill Haring Cavawan, Camarines Sur 56 yrs old

Vilma N. Arcilla
61 Dona Leonila St., San Juan Iriga City 33 yrs old

Mary Ann F. Galicia
Personnel Housing Himaao Pili Camarines Sur 35 yrs old

Dante Garcia
Matagbac, Tabaco City 40 yrs old

Belma B. Nazareno
Zone 5 Del Rosario St. Maur Camarines Sur 31 yrs old

Guillermo Clarianes, Jr.
21 Z-3 Triangulo St., Naga City 36 yrs old

Juan Freddie Badiola II
36 Mayon Ave., Naga City 31 yrs old

Michelle Dumalasa
Salvacion Poblacion Tinambac Camarines Sur 20 yrs old

Edgardo Perida
#50 Bambang St. Zone 2 Binalisi, Naga City 47 yrs old

Cristina S. Mota
Divina Pastora Bato Camarines Sur 24 yrs old

Emmanuel A. Mujar
Pinaglabuagan Tasan Sipocot Camarines Sur 21 yrs old

Marilou A. Santiago
Metroville Sabang Naga City 28 yrs old

Jasmin B. Banog
#67 Azucena St. Naga City Subd. Naga City 21 yrs old

Joaquin Batalla Jr.
Damag San Jose Camarines Sur 62 yrs old

Joann O. Capalos
Zone 7 Bell Magsaysay Camarines Sur 26 yrs old

Leticia L. Yu
770 Panider St. Tabuco Naga City 57 yrs old

Francisco Angeles Jr.
San Nicolas St. Panganiban Catanduanes 21 yrs old

Ladymoon B. Nieva
San Antonio, Donsol Sorsogon 23 yrs old

Estrella R. Buella
San Antonio Purok II Tabaco City Albay 56 yrs old

Nelia L. Tarog
Punta Donsol Sorsogon 48 yrs old

Adoracion Lladone
Buco Manito, Albay 71 yrs old

Marry Jean Agdalla
Bgy. 53 Purok 8, Bonga, Legaspi City 28 yrs old

Maricel Boras
San Pedro St., Sto. Domingo, Albay 20 yrs old

Domingo D. Domer
Rawis, Bacon Dist. Sorsogon City 27 yrs old

Edna A. Lingling
72 Ponce St. Dist. III Bayombong Nueva Vizcaya 48 yrs old

Ernesto G. Almasco
Santiago Young, Nabua, Camarines Sur 58 yrs old

Leandro M. Espinas
Lot 22 Blk. 3 Phase II Teachers Vill. Washington Drive Legazpi City 38 yrs old

Elias S. Lipnica
Dist. 5 Ponso, Polangui Albay 22 yrs old

Cesar O. Paguio
Sally's Sari-sari Store Bascaran Camalig Albay 68 yrs old

Yvonne L. Bahia
2070 Lucsin Subd., Daraga, Albay 34 yrs old

Yolanda Cansilao
Purok 6 Tuliw Malinao Albay 30 yrs old

Gloria M. Vibar
Tololo Camalig Albay 52 yrs old

Necitas N. Muyna
Ligban Camalig Albay 53 yrs old

Jovy G. Almario
San Francisco, Bulan, Sorsogon 35 yrs old

Rene A. Gragas
Zone 4 Ph. 2 Public Market Bulan Sorsogon 23 yrs old

Francisco de Nieva
Poblacion Sur, Sto. Barbara Pangasinan 63 yrs old

Alejandro Tadem
Bldg. 15 Room 14 Palawan Area Philex Mining Corp. Tuba Benguet 45 yrs old

Richard Cacho
21 South Sanitary Camp Baguio City 31 yrs old

Roberto Geminiano Sr.
22 Mangin Dist. Dagupan City 19 yrs old

Teresita P. Sison
Poblacion Labrador, Pangasinan 45 yrs old

Veneranda Gutierrez
62 Sawan Mangaldan, Pangasinan 38 yrs old

Efren Laurentino
Dili Sta. Cruz Ilocos Sur 40 yrs old

Archie V. Cajigal
Bgy. 3 Alogoog Badoc Ilocos Norte 78 yrs old

Tomas S. Ocampo
Baag Pasaleng Pagudpud Ilocos Norte 36 yrs old

Wilma A. Patoc
34 B Gabu Norte 2900 Laoag City 51 yrs old

Arnel V. Raras
Bgy. 34 B Gabu Norte Laoag City 36 yrs old

Adriano Gramaje
San Nicolas Candon City, Ilocos Sur 60 yrs old

Saly B. Deza
Cabaan East Ballesteros Cagayan Valley 34 yrs old

Theresa Uy
89 Pilar St. Cauayan Isabela 29 yrs old

Rosario Santiago
Victoria Mallig, Isabela 54 yrs old

Marites G. Dagulo
Balagbag Diffun Quirino 28 yrs old

Graciana Maniago
Ambalatungan, Santiago City Isabela 48 yrs old

VISAYAS

Jocelyn Baunsit
Labogon Centro, Mandaue City 38 yrs old

Annabel G. Pepito
105 A.F. Ramos St., Cebu City 41 yrs old

Mary Francisco
466 Lower Gogon Sitio Hawaii Pardo, Cebu City 42 yrs old

Nelson J. Abella
P. Basubas St. Tipolo Mandaue City 25 yrs old

Vladimir Gomez
Zone 1 Bacon St. Dumlog Talisay City 34 yrs old

Paulina Flores
490 A Arch. Reyes Ave., Cebu City 62 yrs old

Serafin J. Gusay
505 C Padilla St., Cebu City 63 yrs old

Manuel M. Brigoli
Bojo Alaguinsan, Cebu City 64 yrs old

Rita M. Cimafranca
Bunbun Alaguinsan, Cebu City 52 yrs old

Joselito L. Romarate
12 A Lopez Ext. Babangon, Cebu City 39 yrs old

Lamberto J. Buscano
Camp Peralta Jamindan Capiz 43 yrs old

Kathyren de la Cruz
Zone 1 Bgy. Libas Roxas City 28 yrs old

Alejo Talinga
Poblacion Makato Aklan 34 yrs old

Medrona S. Fernando
Centro Sur, Pandan Antique 52 yrs old

Arceliza Estrines
Ilandres Bugasong Antique 51 yrs old

Filadelpo Desanmiguel
138 San Juan St. Burauen Leyte 57 yrs old

Isidro Baitan
Badiang Arevalo, Iloilo City 50 yrs old

Charito B. Panes
356 B Lopez Jaena St., Jaro, Iloilo City 50 yrs old

Cosette Lobaton
Burgos St. Arevalo Iloilo 33 yrs old

Elna Silva
Pitogo San Joaquin, Iloilo City 37 yrs old

Alfonso de la Cruz
Banago Molisy Camingawan Proper, Bgy. Estefania Bacolod 49 yrs old

Rene O. Flores
Purok Sambag Bgy. Lopez Jaena, Murcia Negros Occidental 34 yrs old

Willie D. Chua
L 2 Blk 5 Villa Fe Subd. Bgy. Villamonte Bacolod 48 yrs old

Virginia L. Dumdum
Bgy. 56 Cabangawan Tacloban City 61 yrs old

Eugenio T. Saballa
Bgy. Mabbago Babangon Leyte 43 yrs old

Emma M. Bautista
131 Gomez St., V & G Subd., Tacloban City 78 yrs old

Bhent Jovencio A. Delmo
75 Lacson St. cor. Aquino St. Zamboanguita Negros Occidental 65 yrs old

Alice L. Jimenez
Bolito St. Bayawan Negros Oriental 49 yrs old

Nancy F. Tanatan
Mabang Dumaguete City Negros Oriental 41 yrs old

Elsie S. Pinero
326 Lower Balinget Dumaguete City 52 yrs old

Jesselleta M. Garbo
San Jose Banilad Dumaguete City 32 yrs old

Rosita J. Mariano
Daan Lungsod Sta. Catalina Negros Oriental 26 yrs old

Ramil G. Budomo
Rizal St. Estancia Mandaue City Cebu 22 yrs old

Ernesto Maximo
57 B Gullas St., Cebu 50 yrs old

Rodrigo E. Sevilla
Pob. Sibonga, Cebu City 51 yrs old

Grace F. Mendez
Naspit Talamban Cebu City 38 yrs old

Lucio Y. Bayer
17 Salvador St. Labangon Cebu City 62 yrs old

Juan B. Fajardo
Bathapan Dalaguete Cebu City 48 yrs old

Constancio Valdez
1038 Rabag I Road, Lapu Lapu City 49 yrs old

Jessie Timogtimog
Bridgeville Bulacao Talisay City Cebu 20 yrs old

Carlos Z. Drona
100 L T Labastilla St. Cebu City 64 yrs old

Rodulfo Berlandino Jr.
Arnaldo Blvd. Roxas City, Capiz 33 yrs old

Pacifico Advincula
Bislig Tanauan Leyte 66 yrs old

Clarita M. Belarma
Damilisan Miag-ao, Iloilo City 42 yrs old

Hermes Castrodes
Uptown Ubujan Dist., Tagbilaran City 50 yrs old

Romulo Q. Velasco
Bgy. Tabunan, Lomery Iloilo City 47 yrs old

Claresa Cago
Sitio Cabaroggis Camarinca Valencia Bohol 52 yrs old

Cesar B. Pana Sr.
Bgy. Sabang Beach, Ormoc City Leyte 33 yrs old

Ludovico Alquisar
Abiazra Bgy. Mandalagan Bacolod City 67 yrs old

Roderick Rodero
Purok Cabachawan Zone 4 Bgy. Villamonte Bacolod 20 yrs old

Hernani Magbiray
Canongcalong Zone II Airport Subd. Bacolod 60 yrs old

Henry R. Salgado
Aranda Singcang Bacolod City 44 yrs old

Nonita A. Lauren
Bgy. Casaje Hinigaran Negros Occidental 44 yrs old

Myrna S. Uy
Hilado St. Bacolod City 56 yrs old

Joey Trono
Bgy. Lopez Jaena Murcia, Negros Occidental 20 yrs old

Arlin Sabalberino
Bgy. 59 Paseo Sagkahan Tacloban 38 yrs old

Karina Sol Peralta
B 7 Lot 16 17 Costa Vill. Bgy. Calanipawan Tacloban 21 yrs old

Generoso Ramirez
Bgy. 74 San Lorenzo Ruiz St. Lower Nula Tula Tacloban 49 yrs old

Victoria Abrasado
Poblacion Bobay Negros Oriental 43 yrs old

Jeffrey T. Robenta
Bgy. 73 Naga-naga Tacloban City 19 yrs old

Romeo Jorolan
Obrero Bais City Negros Oriental 45 yrs old

Jaime P. Torres
726 Roxas St. Bais City, Negros Oriental 29 yrs old

Florante Libradilla
Awa-an Ayungon, Negros Oriental 29 yrs old

Eduardo R. Teofilo
Pob. Malabuyoc, Cebu City 47 yrs old

MINDANAO

Marifi Joie F. Acharon
7 Bliss Calumpang Gen. Santos City 24 yrs old

Danilo C. Albarracin
Purok 7 Pob. Monkayo Compostela Valley Prov. 50 yrs old

Rolando B. Alburo
B16 L8 Ph 1 Waa Agdao, Davao City 43 yrs old

Maguid T. Andik
Al Juhaira Store Pikit, Cotabato City 50 yrs old

Efren Angay
Bgy. 8 Obedcruz St. San Francisco Agusan del Sur 42 yrs old

Josephine Bouffard
Perez St. Kidapawan City North Cotabato 21 yrs old

Vicente A. Bravo, Jr.
Placer Surigao del Norte 51 yrs old

Minda Bucao
35 Narra St. Lea Subd. Lanang Davao City 47 yrs old

Analiza Bumatay
Greenhills Lower San Roque Zamboanga City 34 yrs old

Rafy Canoy
Bliss Mahabaat Buru-un Iligan City 24 yrs old

Narciso H. Cuamag
Zone 6 Allah Valley Drive Surallah South Cotabato 67 yrs old

Abdulrahim Dalundong
Nayon Sharif Kabunsuan College R. H. 5 Cotabato 37 yrs old

Criselda C. Ela
Tejada Subd. Makilala Cotabato City 32 yrs old

Vergencita Esparagoza
Purok 1-A San Juan, Surigao City 64 yrs old

Danilo Espiritu
Pob. 2 Pigcawayan North Cotabato City 32 yrs old

Estrella Gerodias
A116 Purok 3 L Hilad Sto. Tomas Davao del Norte 46 yrs old

Carolina Hampac
Bunker Kabasalan Zamboanga Sibugay Prov. 53 yrs old

Vengie Handugan
Camp 1 Maramag Bukidnon 23 yrs old

Leonila Juanico
Crossing Hagonoy Davao del Sur 40 yrs old

Cesaria Juntilla
756 J.C. Aquino Ave. Butuan City 65 yrs old

Mario Manubag
7 Doña Tambo Iligan City 58 yrs old

Jeryll Neriava
Lubo Aloran Misamis Occ. 21 yrs old

Jay Obguia
17 Bliss Sto. Mati Davao Oriental 21 yrs old

Allan C. Oczon
Purok Bayan Maitum Sarangani Prov. 22 yrs old

Sylvia Pagayon
Pob. Bayog Zamboanga del Sur 29 yrs old

Maria Lourdes Rasim
Bgy. Camino Nuevo-D. Zamboanga City 21 yrs old

King Reyna
Rizal Buenavista Agusan del Norte 38 yrs old

Agripina Saladaga
Basaad Sindang, Zamboanga del Sur 38 yrs old

Betty L. Siangco
Agusan Ave. Pulau Iligan City 48 yrs old

Erwin M. Solon
Commonwealth Ave. Zamboanga del Sur 23 yrs old

Bonifacio Toledo
Cabadbaran Butuan City 47 yrs old

Alejandro A. Tomas
Don Basilio Navarro St. San Jose [illegible]

Alfred Artes
316 Legal St. Kingking Pantukan, Comval Prov. 51 yrs old

Ramar Balanghig
575b Purok 2 Bgy. 3 Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte 46 yrs old

Guillerma Bao
Pob. Lagonglong, Misamis Oriental 32 yrs old

Florifess F. Baricuatro
Alunan Vicente Nunag St. Pob. Glan, Sarangani 36 yrs old

Felix Baron
Purok 11 Esperanza Agusan del Sur 35 yrs old

Alicia L. Canuto
Panabisalan Dugmanon San Isidro, Davao Oriental 45 yrs old

Aurora A. Celiz
Purok New Leganes Zone 1 Koronadal City 26 yrs old

Joseph Maven R. Centillas
San Antonio Ozamis City 21 yrs old

Vicente L. Co
Cotabato Auto Supply, Cotabato City 66 yrs old

Elisa J. Cortes
B L Dolo Antiway Vill. Bgy. San Antonio Davao 35 yrs old

Christopher Evaristo
31 Hizon Ext. Mati Davao Oriental 40 yrs old

Gregoria Villoses
Dapaon Sindangan, Zamboanga del Norte 48 yrs old

Luceno Faustor
San Miguel Compostela Comval Province 29 yrs old

Peter Gan
26 Sagittarius St. Dona Luisa Vill., Matina Davao 24 yrs old

Antonio F. Gana
MAA People's Vill. Davao City 47 yrs old

Alfredo H. Lasaca
Kibawe Sumilao Bukidnon 49 yrs old

Altery Lu
Uguiangan Carmen, Cotabato City 35 yrs old

Consuelo W. Ly
114 Tumaga Interior, Zamboanga City 53 yrs old

Merlyn Maca
B2 L1 Bougainville Subd., Igpit, Iopol Misamis Or. 45 yrs old

Samson Malino
Lamlahak Malungon Sarangani Prov. 31 yrs old

Nelda Paler
Esmeralda Natumolan Tagoloan Misamis Or. 52 yrs old

Salvacion Pepito
141 Cugman Macabalan Cagayan de Oro City 65 yrs old

Gemma Polintan
San Teodoro Bunawan Agusan del Sur 19 yrs old

Lydia Pueblos
Ipil Zamboanga Sibugay Prov. 47 yrs old

Valentin Ramao Jr.
Purok 4 A Buhangin Bgy. 19 Butuan City 61 yrs old

Raymundo Son
Purok Bamboos Balingasan Misamis Or. 36 yrs old

Gerardo Sotelo
261 Capt. V. Roa St. Bgy. 32 Cagayan de Oro City 48 yrs old

Marilou Tagnipes
Fernandez St. Tangub City 44 yrs old

Amelinda Talledo
Lakewood Doña Pilar St. Panacan Davao City 41 yrs old

Mecito B. Tinaju
B17 L10 Ph 1 Lake Valley Homes Tagum Davao City 47 yrs old

Roberto Turtur
Purok 4 Libertad Butuan City 43 yrs old

Gloria P. Villa
Bayan Surigao Osmena St. [illegible]

STORE OUTLET WINNERS

(4) FIRST PRIZES P50,000.00 CASH

GMA

Gen. Gyle Variety Store
Ph. 5 Molave St., Greenwood Vill., Cainta, Rizal

LUZON

Paul Store
Butong, Taal, Batangas

VISAYAS

Conchita Store
Maria Cristina St., Dumaguete City

MINDANAO

No winner

(8) SECOND PRIZES P25,000.00 CASH

GMA

Angela's Store
41 E. Masang St. Pineda Pasig City

Nicah Store
8 Kalinisan St., Josepa, Q.C.

LUZON

Danao Store
[illegible] Tuguegarao City

Chua's Store
[illegible] Polangui Albay

VISAYAS

RM Store
Mabolo [illegible]

Panpres Store
Osol Cesalas Ave. [illegible] Negros Oriental

MINDANAO

Bad-as Comm.
[illegible]

RD Enterprises
[illegible]

(16) THIRD PRIZES P10,000.00 CASH

GMA

Melody Store
77 De Guzman St. TVC Olandes, Marikina City

M1M2 Gen. Merchandise
Teresa Public Mkt., San Gabriel Teresa Rizal

Passerby Merch.
66 V. Purok 1 Cupang Muntinlupa City

Remy Store
R.D.S. Mini Mart Lower Ave. Tanada Subd. Valenzuela City

LUZON

One Centro Store
Falcon St., Sta. Cruz, Laguna

Leg Ang Sian Trdg.
Magallanes St. Legaspi City

Palencia's Store
Balinad Polangui Albay

Medina Sari-Sari Store
Magsaysay St. Bgy. 7 Bacacay Albay

VISAYAS

Agnes Store
7 Mabini St., Lopez, Iloilo City

No Store Winner

Bacong Mini Mart
Public Market Bacong Negros Oriental

Pacita Store
ADA Hills Lane San Dionisio Iloilo City

MINDANAO

Deluao's Store
Teachers Vill. Calinan Davao City

Balanay's Store
Pob. Tuvena Misamis Oriental

Neneng Store
Rizal St. Dumaguete City

Samonte Eatery
Purok 6 Lanton Apopong Gen. Santos City

DOH-BFAD nO. 0252-2003

Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

Iraq bombing clouds US security efforts

BAGHDAD—The deaths of seven Iraqi police recruits in a bomb attack cast a pall on Sunday over efforts by the US-led administration to restore security nearly three months after Baghdad fell to coalition forces.

The assault in the town of Ramadi, some 100 km west of Baghdad, followed threats against Iraqis cooperating with the US-led coalition, residents said, and came after the broadcast of a tape purporting to be of Saddam Hussein praising those carrying out strikes on coalition forces.

The US overseer for Iraq, Paul Bremer, denounced the latest bloodshed, blaming Saturday's blast on diehard Saddam loyalists.

"Today they have killed innocent Iraqis with the same disdain for their own citizens they showed for 35 years," under Saddam's Baath Party regime, Bremer told reporters in Baghdad.

Ramadi police chief Jadam al-Awani said the young recruits were finishing their third day of training when the blast struck. He put the number of dead at seven, adding that as many as 45 people were wounded by the explosion.

In a further sign of the fragile security situation, a British spokesperson said Saturday that a British journalist was shot dead by unknown assailants in a northwestern neighborhood of Baghdad.

"I understand he was a freelance cameraman formerly with ITN," deputy head of the British mission in Baghdad, Jon Wilks, said. The journalist's identity was not immediately released.

The reporter was the first to be killed in Iraq since US President George W. Bush declared the end of the war on May 1, but follows a spate of guerrilla-style attacks on US troops blamed on Saddam loyalists.

The US military said in a statement that "the newly trained city police recruits were attending their graduation ceremony when the explosion occurred."

The flareup coincided with the release by Amnesty International of a new report lambasting British forces in control of southern Iraq and calling for an end to disorder in Basra.

"The climate of fear and insecurity is overwhelming in Basra," noted the London-based group in the report titled: "Iraq: the Need for Security."

In the flashpoint town of Fallujah, a group of newly trained Iraqi police recruits were due to graduate later Sunday, in what coalition forces hope will be a key step toward bringing security to the town, west of Baghdad.

US forces patrolling the town have come under regular attack by fighters using rocket-propelled grenades and small arms, and have fought to quell rumors that they were behind a blast at a mosque in the town one week ago.

Seven people, including the imam, were killed in the explosion in a building in the mosque compound, with US officials claiming the blast occurred during a bomb-making class. Residents said they believed a US missile was to blame.

The Ramadi blast came a day after Qatar's Al-Jazeera news channel aired an audiotape in which a voice believed to be that of Saddam said that he was still in the country, directing cells of "holy warriors" to fight US-led forces.

The ousted Iraqi leader's whereabouts have been a mystery since coalition forces seized Baghdad on April 9, and the United States has put a $25 million price on his head in an effort to capture him.

US officials played down the recent wave of violence. "I would not qualify it as an upsurge in attacks. We continue to carry out our operations. We are doing what we need to do, which is to aggressively find these people and remove them from being a threat," said Maj. Sean Gibson.

AFP

Conjoined twins undergo surgery, leave fate to God

SINGAPORE—A pair of 29-year-old Iranian twin sisters who are joined at the head began a marathon operation Sunday that could finally separate them—or could kill one or both.

After a lifetime of compromises on everything from when to wake up each day to what career to pursue, Ladan and Laleh Bijani said they preferred to face the dangers of the surgery—which could last up to four days—rather than continue living joined together.

"If God wants us to live the rest of our lives as two separate, independent individuals, we will," Ladan said Saturday.

The twins had said they wanted to walk into the operating room at Singapore's Raffles Hospital as a sign of courage, but they were brought in by wheelchair because they were too tired to stand.

An international team of 28 doctors and about 100 medical assistants will participate in the surgery, which will last at least 48 hours and could take four days.

"It's going to be a good day," the lead neurosurgeon, Dr. Keith Goh, said as he arrived at the hospital Sunday morning. He said he and his wife spent the morning praying for the twins.

The Bijani sisters have tried for years to persuade doctors to separate them, even though the operation could kill them.

"For almost as long as they can remember, they've been looking forward to this—hoping it will happen," said Bahar Niko, a Singapore-based Iranian who became a friend of the twins after they arrived in Singapore last November.

Niko was one of seven friends who joked, laughed and prayed with the twins just before they were wheeled in for surgery at 10 a.m.

The sisters, born in Firouzabad, southern Iran, in 1974, have separate brains that lie next to each other in a joined skull. Their heads are connected but their bodies are otherwise distinct.

It is the first time that surgeons have tried to separate adult craniopagus twins—siblings born joined at the head—since the procedure was first successfully performed in 1952.

LADAN (left) and Laleh walk into a press conference in Singapore in this June 11 file photo. The 29-year-old twin sisters, who will undergo a risky surgery to separate them on July 6, say that if God wants them to live the rest of their lives as two separate individuals, then they will. AP

Previously, the surgery has only been performed on infants whose personalities aren't formed and brain tissue is more adaptable to changes.

The surgeons' most daunting challenge will be dealing with a single shared vein that drains blood from the women's brains. German doctors told the twins in 1996 that the vein made surgery too dangerous.

Vascular surgeons began removing a vein from one of the twin's legs so the neurosurgeons could use it in place of the shared vein.

Before the operation, doctors conducted four hours of last-minute tests on the sisters to study how blood flows through their brains.

The tests revealed a new medical reason for the surgery to proceed, Goh said on Saturday. The pressure inside the twins' brains was more than twice what it should be.

The discovery led doctors "to believe this is something quite necessary, not cosmetic or frivolous," Goh said.

Neurosurgeons were expected to begin separating the twins' brains later Sunday.

"From then on, it is going to be a fairly long process," a doctor said.

Dr. Benjamin Carson, another lead surgeon and director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Children's Center in Baltimore, Maryland, estimated that the sisters can have a 50-50 chance of survival.

AP

Ex-US envoy hits Bush for twisted info

NEW YORK—A former US ambassador who investigated a report about Iraq buying uranium from Niger for the CIA accused the Bush administration on Sunday of twisting intelligence to exaggerate the threat posed by Saddam Hussein.

Joseph Wilson, Washington's envoy to Gabon from 1992 to 1995, detailed in his role in investigating the report—which turned out to be a forgery—in an article in the New York Times on Sunday.

The report was cited by President George W. Bush and Britain to justify their invasion of Iraq in March.

"Based on my experience with the administration in the months leading up to the war, I have little choice but to conclude that some of the intelligence related to Iraq's nuclear weapons program was twisted to exaggerate the Iraqi threat," Wilson wrote.

Reuters

Blair says BBC claims on Iraq dossier absurd

LONDON—Prime Minister Tony Blair has dismissed as "absurd" a British Broadcasting Corp. claim that government officials doctored intelligence about Iraq's weapons to boost the case for war, a British newspaper reported Sunday.

A government minister also demanded the BBC apologize for the report, which has soured the state-funded broadcaster's relationship with Blair's administration.

"I think it would be disastrous if they did not apologize," environment and fisheries minister Ben Bradshaw told ITV television Sunday.

The BBC's governors and senior management were due to meet later Sunday to discuss its claim that officials in Blair's office "sexed up" a dossier on Iraq's chemical and biological weapons to persuade skeptical lawmakers of the need for war.

So far the BBC has stood by correspondent Andrew Gilligan and his May allegation—which cited an unidentified intelligence official—that Blair aides had redrafted an intelligence dossier to include claims that Saddam Hussein could launch chemical and biological weapons at 45 minutes' notice.

A parliamentary committee investigating the government's use of intelligence to justify war is due to report on Monday.

In an interview published Sunday in The Observer newspaper, Blair said the allegation was "about as serious an attack on my integrity as there could possibly be.

"The idea that I or anyone else in my position frankly would start altering intelligence evidence or saying to the intelligence services I am going to insert this, is absurd," he added.

AP

Death toll in mosque blast hits 53

QUETTA, Pakistan—Police investigating possible Taliban involvement in the massacre of Shiite Muslims praying at a mosque in Quetta have detained 17 people in raids in southwest Pakistan, officials said Sunday.

The death toll in Friday's attack—the first suicide assault in Pakistan's bitter sectarian conflict between extremist Shiite and Sunni Muslims—has risen to 53, including the three attackers, said the emergency and relief organization that has been attending to victims in Quetta hospitals.

Naeem Ahmed, head of the Edhi Foundation office in Quetta, said the organization's workers had counted 65 wounded people in hospitals in Quetta, the capital of southwest Baluchistan province on Pakistan's border with Afghanistan.

Authorities have said they are investigating whether al-Qaida fugitives or remnants of the Taliban militia carried out the assault with explosives and guns.

Most of the 2,000 Shiite worshippers gathered in the mosque for Muslim Sabbath prayers were Hazaras, an ethnic group that also exists in Afghanistan and has fought against the Taliban militia.

The attack came a few weeks after a former Taliban military commander said the ousted Sunni Muslim movement would begin using suicide squads against its foes.

The Hazaras in Quetta are from the same ethnic group that dominates Afghanistan's Shiite Muslim population. The Taliban and the Hazaras have long been enemies, and each side accuses the other of massacres during the 1990s.

President Pervez Musharraf on Saturday said the attackers could have come from outside Pakistan, adding "if there is any external hand in this incident, we will find out."

Syed Ashraf Zaidi, president of the Baluchistan Shiite Conference, said two of the slain attackers were not Pakistani. He did not identify their nationality.

"The criminals whose bodies are lying in the hospital are not locals," said Zaidi. "They are members of al-Qaida. Go and see their faces."

AP

Top Saudi terrorist blew self up

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia—Days after a murky shootout left Saudi Arabia's top terror suspect dead, official forensic reports showed that the alleged militant and three others blew themselves up after police surrounded them, the state-run Saudi news agency said.

Turki Nasser al-Dandani, the kingdom's most-wanted suspect in the May 12 suicide bombings in Riyadh, and three other alleged militants were killed Thursday. At the time, authorities initially said al-Dandani had blown himself up, then that he died in a lengthy shootout.

The interior ministry, in a statement carried by the Saudi news agency SPA late Saturday, said forensics had shown that the four men "blew themselves up collectively . . . after the grip was tightened over them."

AP

Israel gives green light for release of prisoners

JERUSALEM—The Israeli government on Sunday gave the green light for the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, Israel Army radio reported.

The Cabinet agreed by 13 votes to eight a motion authorizing the release of more than 300 prisoners on the basis of a list drawn up the Shin Beth security service.

The list had been drawn up at the request of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who is keen to make a goodwill gesture to his Palestinian counterpart Mahmoud Abbas who made the releases a key demand at their joint meeting last Tuesday.

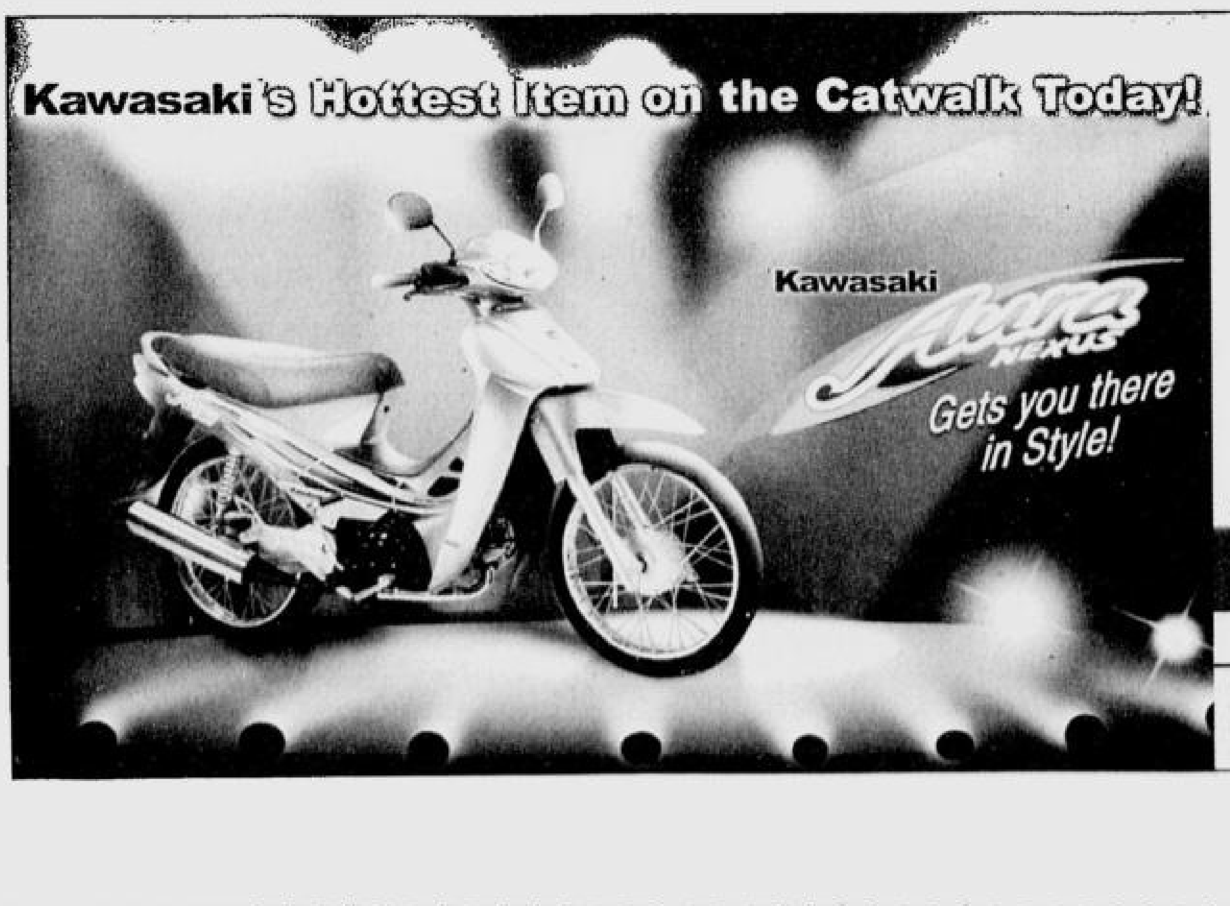
In Gaza City, the militant Palestinian group the Popular Resistance Committees announced Sunday that it was signing up to a three-month freeze on anti-Israeli attacks called by other major factions last week.

"We agree to a truce of three months on condition that Israel frees Palestinian prisoners, ends assassinations, incursions and settlements and lifts the siege of (Palestinian leader) Yasser Arafat," the Gaza-based group said in a statement.

Palestinian security services arrested Thursday several members of the group, accusing them of carrying out rocket attacks on the Kfar Darom Jewish settlement in southern Gaza.

Four Palestinian groups—including Hamas and Islamic Jihad—agreed on June 29 to call a three-month halt to anti-Israeli operations but attached a string of conditions including an end to the targeting of wanted militants as well as the release of all prisoners from Israeli detention.

AFP



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Groups launch drive vs Cha-cha in Baguio

BAGUIO CITY—Claiming that President Macapagal-Arroyo is "hell bent" on legitimizing administration-backed laws that violate the 1987 Constitution, Catholic church leaders and student groups on Friday linked up with the Left-leaning Kilusan ng Pambansang Demokrasya (KPD) to forge another national front against Charter change.

The President's political ambitions are tied to the advocacy for constitutional amendments because at the very heart of this "Cha-cha" movement is her administration's legitimacy, said Millet Morante, KPD secretary general.

Ms Macapagal needs new constitutional provisions to legitimize her succession to power, following the ouster in 2001 of former President Joseph Estrada, and to correct the 1995 Philippine Mining Act, and several banking laws, which are contrary to explicit Charter guidelines, Morante said.

"People should realize that this is a done deal. Our political leaders have not been debating what they want changed (in the Constitution), they're debating how it will be changed, whether by constituent assembly or by constitutional convention," she said.

House Bill 16 converts Congress into a constituent assembly, "but reading from the (INQUIRER headlines), it is clear (Ms Macapagal) has consolidated the opposing views, provided she runs as a transition president."

First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo had announced on Friday that Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin had joined the chorus of support for Ms Macapagal's candidacy in 2004.

Ms Macapagal had declared on Dec. 30 last year that she no longer wanted to run for president.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo had earlier launched a "symbolic" nationwide opposition to the Charter change in Pampanga, Ms Macapagal's home province.

Edward Gamayon, student government president of the Baguio Colleges Foundation, said student groups are ready to rally behind a counter Cha-cha movement because the political foundations for constitutional changes are geared toward maintaining a power bloc.

Morante said previous Cha-cha movements have in fact prioritized the lifting of term ceilings that was enshrined by the 1987 Charter.

Ramos wanted to deregulate most industries, expand bureaucratic powers, reinforce a multiparty system and control voting privileges, when he urged changes in the Constitution.

But "what is really at stake," she said, are the Constitution's "nationalistic" provisions.

Morante referred to Article 12, which had been targeted during the administration of President Fidel Ramos because it provides "protectionist policies" covering retail trade, power resources and natural resources.

This Charter provision is the singular obstruction to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which facilitates global trade, Morante explained.

Under the GATT terms, member countries of the World Trade Organization should have implemented zero tariff regulations on 2004. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Samar townsfolk unfazed by renewed attacks

By Cyrain Cabueñas
PDI Visayas Bureau

BORONGAN, Eastern Samar—It is business as usual for residents of Quinapondan and Oras towns, despite recent forays into the police headquarters and Army detachment as well as news of impending attacks on other municipalities.

Although aware that the New People's Army (NPA) is stepping up its attacks, Eastern Samar Gov. Clotilde Japson-Salazar downplayed the disturbance caused by the rebels.

"The whole province is generally peaceful. There's no reason to panic because our police and military have everything under control."

She said the attacks by the NPA were isolated and did not come as a surprise because Quinapondan is a mountainous area and Cagpile is a very remote place where the rebels can easily get in and out.

The police are not taking things lightly, however. Police provincial director Supt. Edwin V. Balongay has raised the red alert in all headquarters since the foiled raid in Quinapondan on June 22.

He has also appointed Insp. Dionesio Maestre, Jr. as the new chief of police of Quinapondan since the town's police chief who withstood the rebels' attack, Insp. Cayetano Gannaban, was still recovering from his wounds.

One of the officers who repelled the attackers, PO1 Raul Graza, said they should not let their guards down. He said that for the past few days, suspicious looking persons in town, who might be NPA members, have been watching their every move. They have no choice but to stick together and spend the night in their headquarters.

The Armed Forces went a step farther. The 801st Brigade Commander Gen. Rafael Romero dispatched about two platoons from the combined forces of the 52nd Infantry Battalion (IB) Alpha Co. in Dolores and the 82nd Reconnaissance team from Taft to close in on the Cagpile raiders.

Seventeen persons—five soldiers, 11 paramilitary men and a wife of a soldier—were killed, when some 200 NPA guerrillas overran and burned down the 52nd IB detachment in Cagpile on June 26.

The recall of the 14th IB from Jolo to their former battalion in Dolores brought relief and security to many civilians. The soldiers are not only battle-tested but have long established rapport with the people.

Maj. Gen. Glenn Rabonza, 8th Division commander, said the cooperation of the community is vital to the destabilization of the insurgents. He said he has high hopes for the 14th IB because they have been assigned in the first district of Samar for a long time, and they know the people and the place.

Bishop Leonardo Y. Medroso of Borongan Diocese said the insurgency problem should serve ,as wake up call for all the people in Eastern Samar, especially the government officials.

Protest vs Boracay casino continues

By N. P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

BORACAY ISLAND, Aklan—The famous white beach of this island-resort was filled with placard-bearing protesters as around 2,000 Boracaynons on Saturday joined a protest rally against the putting up of a casino on the island.

Shouts of "No to casino! Yes to education and livelihood!" filled the beach as tourists and workers of restaurants and resorts looked on.

The protesters led by the Holy Rosary Parish, the lone parish on the island, and officials from the island's three villages converged at the Barangay Balabag public plaza, where they held an ecumenical prayer rally.

Speakers took turns condemning the planned casino and criticized officials of Malay town, to which Boracay belongs, for supporting it.

A project of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), the casino is to be put up at the Club Panoly, a high-end resort in a secluded area in Barangay Yapac.

The protesters proceeded to the beach stretch and held a one-kilometer march to Boat Station 2, before dispersing at the Balabag public plaza.

Seven priests from the Diocese of Aklan and social action directors from Iloilo and Capiz joined the protest participated in mostly by students of the Balabag Elementary School and the Boracay National High School.

Nenet Sacapano, principal of the Balabag Elementary School, said they are opposing the casino because Boracay "is a God-given gift that should be protected."

"We are not only proud of our white beaches but also our family-oriented culture," she said, adding there are still other ways to help improve the island aside from putting up a casino.

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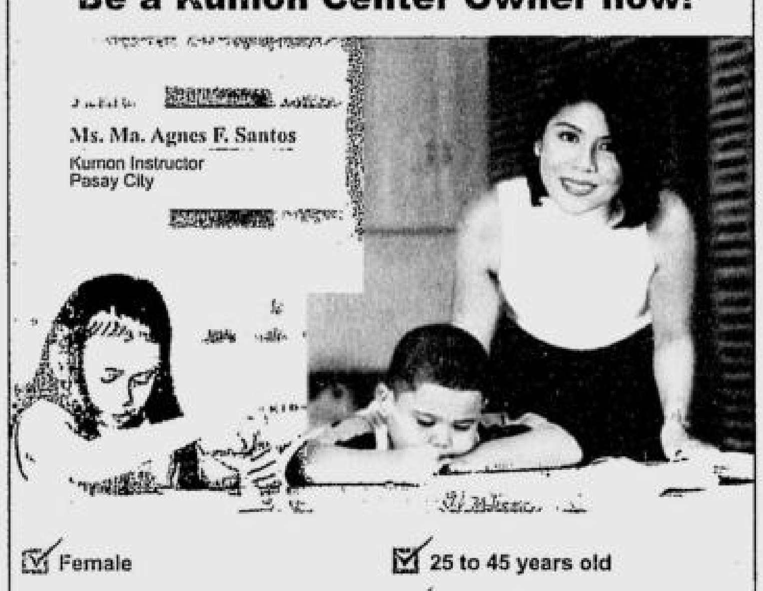

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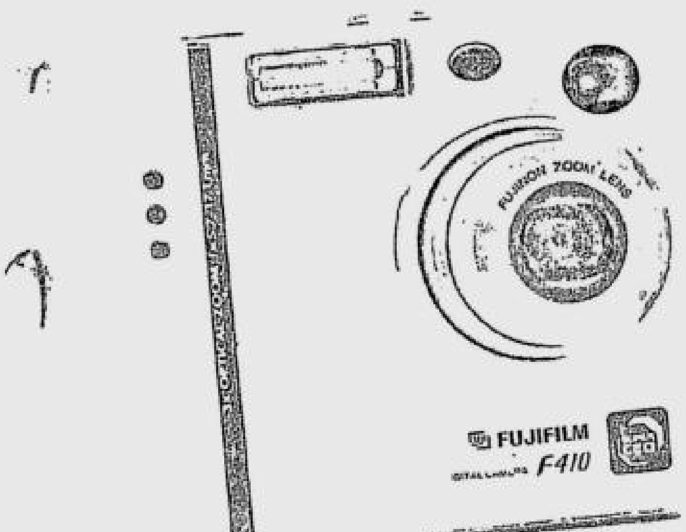

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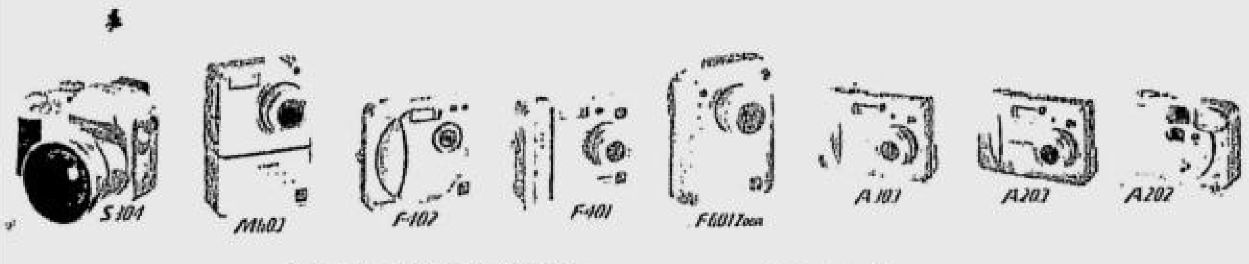

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Army tags NPA in radioman's slay

LEGAZPI CITY—More than two months after the murder of a veteran Albay broadcaster, an Army official based in Daraga, Albay has identified two New People's Army (NPA) members as the alleged gunmen in the killing of veteran Albay broadcaster John Villanueva Jr. on April 28.

Brig. Gen. Pedrito Magsino, commander of 9th Army Brigade based in Barangay Villahermosa identified the two gunmen as Segundo Bongcay alias "Ka Santi" and Jerry Abache alias "Ka Josam," who are both linked to a series of killings and ambuscades of policemen in Camalig and neighboring towns in Albay.

Magsino said Abache and Bongcay were identified through Villanueva's neighbor, who was harassed after the killing.

Magsino claims that Villanueva's neighbor in Barangay Tagaytay, Camalig, earlier sought assistance from their office saying he was threatened by the duo and would be killed next to the broadcaster if he would not leave the place immediately.

He claimed that he earlier recommended the witness to be placed by the government's witness protection program.

Magsino said the Army was leaving the investigation to the Philippine National Police.

"I understand it's now the role of the PNP to investigate (Villanueva's) killing, the case being civilian in nature."

But Albay police chief Senior Supt. Pedro Tango said he was relying merely on the statement of Magsino who claimed to have a potential witness to the killing.

Tango also stressed that the police have been encouraging Magsino to at least divulge the witness' name so they could help out in the investigation.

But only the names of the alleged NPA recruits were given to them.

Tango added that the Army official should coordinate with them on the development of the case.

While the Army and police officials are fingerpointing as to who would sustain the investigation, it was learned that Magsino's supposed potential witness has already waived and no longer wanted to be involved in the case.

Rodjie Abril, provincial chair of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) dared Magsino to prove his allegation of the NPA involvement in the killing.

"The NPA spokesman Gregorio Rosal has disclaimed the killing right after the incident, how can they bring back the NPA into the picture?" Abril asked.

He challenged investigators to look into other angles of the murder.

Earlier, the KBP gave P10,000 financial assistance to Villanueva's family.

KBP chairperson Serge Remonde and Executive Director Rey Hulog themselves handed the assistance and vowed to help in hastening the investigation. *Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Cotabato journalist survives blast

COTABATO CITY—A grenade was thrown by motorcycle-riding men in the house of a freelance journalist in Barangay New Isabela in Tacurong City on Friday dawn but no one was hurt, according to Tacurong police director, Chief Insp. Raul Supiter.

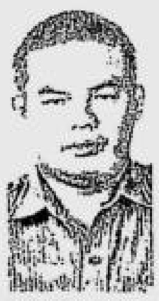
Marlyne Esperat, who writes for local tabloids Midland Review and Gold Star and the president of Sultan Kudarat Tri-Media Group, was in Manila reportedly following up alleged graft cases filed against some local officials in Central Mindanao, when two men, believed to be hired killers, lobbed a grenade at her residence.

Esperat has reportedly incurred the ire of some politicians and government officials because of her exposés of their irregularities.

Interviewed from Manila over radio dxMS, Esperat confirmed the threats on her life, saying it could be due to her work as a media person.

Esperat, who is also a part-time TV commentator, asked media colleagues to monitor and follow up cases of alleged nepotism in Sultan sa Barongis, Maguindanao and a P54-million scam in the agriculture department's regional office. *Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Countdown for Justice



WAPILE

IT IS exactly 420 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

ROUNDUP

Lapid rescue

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Pampanga Gov. Manuel Lapid helped rescue at least 14 women from their Japanese employer who owns a nightclub in Tokyo. Lapid said the Filipinas, who worked as singers, were denied water, punched and slapped, and not paid their salaries during their three-month employment. The women's ordeal ended when one of them, a Kapampangan from Guagua town, called an Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) official in Japan to report an attempted rape on her by the employer. Receiving a tip from an informant in Guagua, Lapid said he coordinated with the Owwa to speed up the return of the women in the Philippines. Lucia Gutierrez, chief of the local Department of Social Welfare and Development, said the provincial government financed the trip of the 13 women to their hometowns in Mindanao.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Hospital chief gets reprieve

SAN FERNANDO CITY—The acting chief of hospital of the Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center, who was earlier ordered relieved by Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit, has been granted a 20-day reprieve by the court on June 23. Judge Adolfo Alagar of the regional trial court here issued the temporary restraining order in favor of Dr. Gilbert de Leon, who was designated officer in charge of the ITRMC on Feb. 24, 2002. De Leon, in his petition, said he had been denied due process before he was ordered relieved by Dayrit. The court ordered Dayrit to "cease and desist" from enforcing his June 6 order designating Dr. Eduardo Janairo, regional director of the Department of Health, as officer in charge of the ITRMC. Dayrit's order came weeks after some 60 doctors and nurses from ITRMC demanded De Leon's relief on grounds of graft and corruption and gross incompetence.

Gia Damaso-Dumo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Cop insubordination

BAGUIO CITY—A top official of the Philippine National Police warned that charges of insubordination await policemen who refuse to submit themselves to drug testing. "If we ask you to take a drug test, you must submit yourself to drug testing. No one is exempted," Deputy Director General Virtus Gil, PNP deputy chief for operations, said. Gil's statement came as two policemen in Baguio City refused to take the test. Supt. Francisco Manalo Jr., Baguio City police chief, confirmed that two of his men refused to take the drug test, citing their rights not to do so. Manalo, however, said the two were among 10 policemen who were being closely watched for possible involvement in illegal drug activities.

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

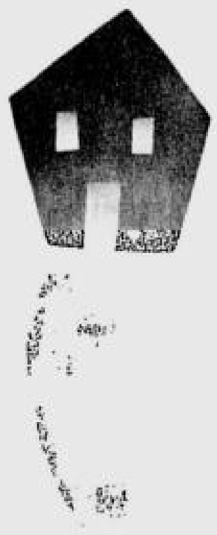
Erratum

THE PHOTO in yesterday's INQUIRER Mindanao is the Obosa ancestral house on Rizal Street in Davao City, not the Campo ancestral home on Bonifacio Street. *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Another eagle found

DAVAO CITY—The Philippine Eagle Foundation retrieved another eagle in Butuan City on July 2. The sub-adult Philippine Eagle was reportedly captured by a *lumad* in Barangay Kioya, Sibagat, Agusan del Sur using a nylon noose baited with a piglet. Initial check-up by the PEF retrieval team showed that "Sibagat," the name of the eagle, sustained a slight sprain on its right wing. The eagle is the second bird captured in the Caraga region where male eagle "Magiting" was caught on Sept. 13, 2002. Sibagat, which is in generally good condition, will temporarily be kept at the Philippine Eagle Center in Malagos, Baguio District to undergo x-ray diagnosis. Since 1992, the PEF successfully hatched 14 eaglets but only 13 survived. The center now has 31 eagles including those previously caught in the wild. The foundation depends heavily on donations for its project. This includes breeding, education and campaign to save the endangered species, the country's national symbol. The Philippine Eagle, the world's largest bird of prey was declared an endangered species in 1965 and was declared the country's national bird in July 1995. Today, there are only about 500 pairs of eagles remaining in the wild.

Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau



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A perfect match, US envoy says of RP-US links

FIL-AM CAKE

TOOTS SOBERANO

American embassy officials and their Filipino counterparts cut two flag-shaped cakes during the 100th year commemoration of the founding of Camp John Hay, a former American facility in Baguio City.

BAGUIO CITY—"Americans eat white meat, while Filipinos eat dark meat" and this illustrates the perfectly matched "mixed marriage" between the United States and the Philippines.

Richard Pruett, first secretary at the US Embassy, used the American Thanksgiving celebration to describe Philippine-American relations during the launch of Camp John Hay's centennial celebrations on Saturday.

"Americans and Filipinos have a special way of complementing its strengths and weaknesses. Maybe this is not the best example . . . (but) Americans prefer to eat the white meat (of a roasted turkey during Thanksgiving dinner). Filipinos prefer the dark meat. Between us the whole bird is eaten," Pruett remarked, drawing laughter from a purely Filipino crowd. "Of course, every family has its moments . . . there are disagreements. Sometimes things are said and done we wish we could take back."

To Pruett, this metaphor sums up US-Philippine relations that started almost 100 years ago when the American colonial government established on Oct. 13, 1903 a Baguio City garrison that would fortify the country's only hill station.

That garrison became Camp John Hay, which former US president Theodore Roosevelt had designated as a "525- acre military reservation for American soldiers" who needed to "recuperate from the tropical heat" in 1903.

Many participants in Saturday's program reacted strongly to the metaphor's indirect reference to Philippine foreign policy.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had been criticized by the media and militant groups for committing the Philippines to US President George W. Bush's military campaign in Iraq. She later declared that the country was after exclusive repair contracts for Iraq's reconstruction after the war.

Ms Macapagal was also bashed for allowing US troops to enter the Philippines through the Balikatan joint military exercises.

"Recently, our president spoke of the Philippines as more than friends, as family . . . We share ideals, but we also share a consanguinity of . . . sealed marriage. That's where I see us, and working together in *balikatan* (cooperation)," Pruett said.

"Our government wants to do everything that it can to help the Philippine government succeed," he said. "The Philippines has no better ally than it has in the US, and it goes both ways. The Philippines has been a faithful and loyal ally and that had been proven in Bataan and on countless occasions since then. I see that great team work in American society, in which Filipinos are the second largest immigrant group. It's an increasingly successful community, it's making great strides, making valuable contributions . . .," Pruett said.

Pruett was silent on the Philippine-American war, which culminated in a US pacification policy that led to the deaths of thousands of Filipinos.

Camp John Hay was turned over to the Philippine government in 1991, and had since been leased for 50 years to a real estate consortium, the Camp John Hay Development Corp.

Damaso Bangaoet, vice president of the John Hay Management Corp. (JHMC), said the government is now developing a historical cluster, to conserve heritage artifacts and sites inside the former US base.

Camp John Hay, named after Maj. Gen. John Milton Hay, served Baguio for decades, and was converted into the headquarters of Japanese General Tomoyuki Yamashita during World War II. Yamashita also surrendered here. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Benguet elders retrieve mummies found in Sagada

BAGUIO CITY—Elders of Kabayan, Benguet, trekked to Sagada town in Mt. Province on Friday to authenticate four mummies found in the house of the late Mt. Province Rep. Alfredo Lam-en, Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas said on Saturday.

But Lam-en's heirs allowed the elders on the same day to take the mummies back to Kabayan, one of the old Benguet towns that act as custodians to centuries-old mummies, the INQUIRER learned.

Sagada Mayor Thomas Killip said the elders offered the mummies a series of ritual prayers, in order to communicate to the mummies' ancestral spirits the necessity of transferring the artifacts "back to where they came from."

Killip said the elders also asked the Ibaloi spirits to bless Lam-en's home, where the mummies had apparently been stored for 27 years.

Lam-en, who also served as Mt. Province governor, is best remembered as the politician who defended Igorots when he delivered a privilege speech in the 1960s to debunk the statement of the late Ambassador Carlos Romulo that apparently debased Igorots.

Molintas, who was unaware of the transfer, told the INQUIRER on Saturday that Lam-en's widow, Florence, disowned any knowledge about the mummies found in their home.

"The mummies were discovered in their annex. She told me she did not know they even existed. She said the family immediately offered to return them," Molintas said.

He said the Kabayan elders asked Molintas to facilitate their travel to Sagada to verify the origins of the mummies.

Mummification has been described as a unique Benguet phenomenon by Isias Picpican, curator of the St. Louis University Museum here.

But Killip also said other tribes in Mt. Province practiced mummification, although he said the methods of preserving the bodies of the dead in Mt. Province were not as sophisticated as that practiced in Benguet.

The four mummies are similar to the famous mummy of Apo Anno, the artifact, which the National Museum returned to Buguias, Benguet in 1999 with accompanying pomp and festivities.

But the artifacts are badly preserved. Like Apo Anno, the mummies were folded with their legs clasped onto their chests. But little of the preserved flesh remains. Most of the artifacts have been weathered down to their skeletons.

Last week, Killip said the mummies were kept in Lam-en's house because his family was trying to trace their origins.

"The Lam-en family wanted me to help return the mummies, but all of us did not know where they came from. They had no intention of keeping them. Besides, what would they do with them?" Killip asked. ***Desiree Caluza with a report from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

FVR bats for 'new arithmetic'

By Anselmo Roque
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—To improve the economy, former President Fidel Ramos wants Filipinos to adopt the "new arithmetic" that he observed is being practiced in many countries.

"In their new arithmetic, one plus one is not two but three, five and, in some other countries, 11. In our country, it's not two either, but zero or even minus five or (lower)," Ramos, who described himself as "jobless" for five years now, said on Friday.

The reason for this negativity, he said, is that Filipinos have made politics their top industry. Other countries, he said, have made agriculture, manufacturing and services as their major industries and their economies have improved.

Ramos also lamented the many "gaps" in the country in terms of knowledge, health, technology and many others, including what he described as a "peculiar gap."

"This peculiar gap in the country is *tanggap*(receive)," he said, grinning, referring to graft and corruption in the government.

Ramos was guest during the inauguration of the demonstration project on high value crops production using solar-powered water pumping and piped irrigation systems at the Central Luzon State University.

He called on Filipinos to always apply "UST"—unity, solidarity and teamwork—to attain progress.

Ramos said it is still useless to talk and speculate on who the standard-bearer of the administration Lakas would be or to read the body language of President Macapagal-Arroyo for her political plans.

He said the Lakas-People Power Coalition would make its consensus on the coalition's standard-bearer, including the senatorial lineup, by the end of July or early August.

"Consultations are still going on," Ramos, Lakas chair emeritus, said. "Let's not speculate. Let's not read body language. Let's work."

The former president said he is busy in his "self-assigned" mission to help the country attain and recover its status as an attractive destination for investment, tourism, technology transfer and other source of economic cooperation.

He said he had made 137 trips abroad for speaking engagements, institutional networking, roundtable discussions, trade missions and conferences.

He is chair of the Ramos Peace and Development Foundation Inc., whose main aim is to "bring about the good life for democratic societies through a culture of excellence and global competitiveness."

Rotary International, District 3830
Leader of Distinction Award
Lend a Hand

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Rotary Year 2003-2004 Awardee

Host Club
Rotary Club of Makati-Urdaneta

July 7, 2003
Monday, 2.30pm
Ceremonial Hall
Malacañang Palace
Manila, Philippines

I join all the Filipino Rotarians in honoring our Leader of Distinction Awardee this year. Serving the nation entails a great personal sacrifice, a deep and abiding dedication, and a truly constant commitment to service above self.

Our outstanding national leaders are, beyond cavil, modern-day heroes who have given of themselves in a generous measure for the good of their country and their people.

It is then but fitting to acknowledge their selfless contribution to the commonweal. And it is not just because they deserve this public accolade, although that is the least we can do for them. It is also because we wish to provide this and the future generation of Filipinos the right kind of icons to emulate.

JOCELYN "Joc - Joc" I. BOLANTE
Rotary International Director-Elect
RY 2004-2005

I sincerely congratulate Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, for being the recipient of the Leader of Distinction Award, conferred on her by the Rotary Club of Makati Urdaneta in District 3830, Philippines.

A first in our district for RY 2003-2004, this award recognizes the great accomplishments and contributions of outstanding leaders of the nation. The leadership values and principles displayed by the Philippine President convey the ideals espoused by Rotary that have brought inspiration to countless people. She has shown the strength, determination and commitment that only few leaders in our country demonstrate. Indeed, such achievements deserve to be recognized as they only serve to unite and inspire people in the quest for peace and unity worldwide.

As a partner in nation building, it is Rotary's intent that such recognition tend to unite and promote goodwill and understanding among people in line with our ideal of Service Above Self.

JOSE "Jun" L. CORTES, JR.
Governor, District 3830, RY 2003-04
Chairman, Council of Advisers
Leader of Distinction Award Committee

It is with great pride that the Rotary International, District 3830, Philippines with the Rotary Club of Makati-Urdaneta as the host club, honors a member of the Rotary family, Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo with the "Leader of Distinction Award"

This special award aims to recognize the immense accomplishments and contributions that outstanding leaders like President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo make to society-in particular those whose accomplishments best illustrate or exemplify the values, principles and ideals of service espoused by Rotary.

We recognize the significant role that President Macapagal-Arroyo plays as a dedicated leader of the nation, her outstanding leadership and vision in nation-building, her enormous strength, determination and resolve to make a difference and effect positive change in the lives of all Filipinos.

CELIA C. CUASAY
President, Rotary Club of Makati-Urdaneta, RY 2003-04
Founding Chair, Rotary's Leader of Distinction Award

Then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo receives her plaque as honorary member from RCMU Charter President Sue Villa-Sta. Maria during the club's charter ceremonies. Looking on are President Celia C. Cuasay as well as R I Past District Governors Romy del Rosario, Tony Rufino, Jocjoc Bolante (also incumbent Undersecretary of Agriculture) and Wilfredo Segovia

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Contractors ask for Malacañang intervention to rush fund release

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Private contractors in Sultan Kudarat province have sought the intervention of Malacañang to expedite the release of the much-delayed payments for completed government-contracted infrastructure projects amounting to about P25 million.

Teodulfo Dalanon, president of the Hinterland Contractors Association (HCA) Inc. based in Isulan town, Sultan Kudarat, told the INQUIRER that Doroteo Ines, district engineer of the Department of Public Works and Highways Sultan Kudarat Engineering District, refused to release their claims despite the availability of funds.

"The projects had long been completed and properly turned-over to the government but until now we haven't been paid yet," Dalanon lamented.

On June 10, Alikhan Marohombsar, deputy director of the Department of Budget and Management in Central Mindanao, issued an advice of notice of cash allocation (NCA) to the DPWH district office in Sultan Kudarat informing the office that the P25 million was already deposited with the Land Bank of the Philippines, Isulan Branch.

Despite the availability of funds, Ines reportedly refused to disburse the money to pay the approved vouchers of the contractors.

Since last year, the district office in Sultan Kudarat owed the contractors some P84 million in unpaid claims. But they are just demanding an initial payment of P25 million.

In a letter to the President dated June 11, HCAI claimed that almost all of their members had stopped operation due to so much delay in the payment of their claims.

"Since the start of the projects until the time they were finished, what we received was mere P50,000. How can we continue with our business if the government is not paying us?" Dalanon added.

To prevent further losses, the 22-member construction firms of HCAI terminated the services of their workers.

HCAI member construction firms employed about 2,000 workers.

The P84-million claims cover payments for the construction of infrastructure projects like roads, bridges, drainage system, school buildings, gravelling and water system.

Dalanon said Ines did not give any valid reason for the non-release of funds.

"He just told us during the meeting that there was a verbal instruction from Central Mindanao DPWH director Nata Pangarungan not to disburse the funds," Dalanon said.

Pangarungan reportedly wanted that the funds be diverted to finance the ongoing construction of Palimbang-Kalamansig Road being undertaken by the Army's 55th Engineering Brigade.

Dalanon said diverting the P25 million to finance the Palimbang-Kalamansig Road would be tantamount to technical malversation of funds, as such project has a separate budget.

Eighteen of the 22 HCAI members signed the petition sent to the President.

This is the first time the private contractors united to denounce the excesses of the DPWH official.

"We have nothing to lose in this fight. Our business went bankrupt, while our workers starved and could not send their children to school because until now the government has yet to settle its obligation to us," HCAI vice president Benjamin Mutya said.

Ines appealed to the contractors to be more patient.

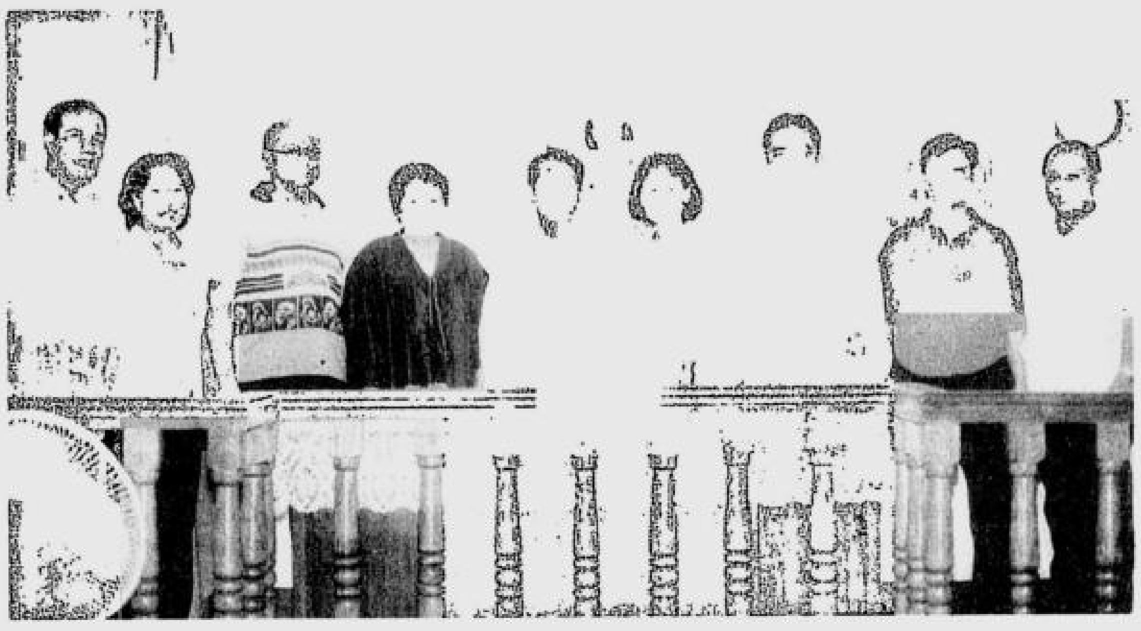
He told the INQUIRER that he was just waiting for the reply from the DBM on the letter he sent asking for clarification whether the P25 million funds can be disbursed to pay the contractors.

He confirmed that his office received two NCAs from the DBM on June 10 with a total amount of P36.5 million. The first NCA involved P11.5 million, while the other amounted to P25 million.

The P11.5-million funds classified as accounts payable, Ines said, is intended for the Army's 55th Engineering Brigade tasked to finish the Palimbang-Kalamansig Road.

The P25 million labeled as current account was intended for the payments of priority projects of the Macapagal administration in Sultan Kudarat.

"I sent a letter to the DBM asking for clarification whether the P25 million can be used to pay the claims of contractors. The contractors knew about it," Ines said. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



JUDGE'S VISIT

Officials of the Philippine Judges Association led by Vice President for Administration and Makati Regional Trial Court Judge Romeo Barza visits the RTC judges in Pangasinan, La Union, Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte, Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya and Nueva Ecija to bring the PJA closer to its member judges. Barza announced during his visitation that the first directory of the RTC judges will be distributed during the annual convention and election of the PJA to be held on Oct. 23-25. In the photo are judges Philip Salvador, Nida Alejandro, Conrado Ragucos, Perla Querubin, Marcelino Asencion, Mrs. Asnecion, Barza, Manuel Argel Jr. and Charles Aguilar.

2 wounded eagles turned over

COTABATO CITY—Aware that eagles are endangered species in the country, two men turned over wounded Crested Serpent Eagles to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources officials.

On June 23, fisherman Rey Rocamora of Barangay Poblacion Kiamba, Sarangani brought the weak and tired Crested Serpent Eagle (*Spilormis cheela*) to the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro), according to Estelita Corpuz, supervising ecosystems management specialist of the DENR in Central Mindanao.

"I found the weak, tired and wounded Eagle along the coast of Sarangani Bay," Rocamora told DENR officials.

"I believed the Eagle would survive and procreate if turned over to concerned authorities," he added.

The next day, Dominador Cabangcala of Barangay Magsaysay, Koronadal City brought a wounded female Crested Serpent Eagle to the DENR's Protected Areas and Wildlife Management Service.

Cabangcala said he found the wounded eagle on a tree near his home in Barangay Magsaysay a week earlier. He took care of the eagle's medication until he decided to hand it over to the DENR.

Both individuals received commendations from DENR regional director Musa Saruang. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, July 7, 2003
14th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Gen 28:10-22
Gospel: Mt 9:18-26

While Jesus was speaking to them, an official of the synagogue came up to him, bowed before him and said, "My daughter has just died, but come and place your hands on her, and she will live." Jesus stood up and followed him with his disciples.

Then a woman who had suffered from a severe bleeding for twelve years came up from behind and touched the edge of his cloak. For she thought, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed." Jesus turned, saw her and said, "Courage, my daughter, your faith has saved you." And from that moment the woman was cured.

When Jesus arrived at the official's house and saw the flute players and the excited crowd, he said, "Get out of here! The girl is not dead. She is only sleeping!" And they laughed at him. But once the crowd had been turned out, Jesus went in and took the girl by the hand, and she stood up. The news of this spread through the whole area.

Commentary

Place your hand on her and she will be healed . . . Jesus went in and took the girl by the hand . . . If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed . . . Life and healing are mediated by the hands. Faithful to the example of the Master, the Church throughout the centuries has used the hands to confer sacramental grace and convey sacred meaning. Maybe we should be more generous with the use of our hands and not restrict them to ritual action: to offer friendship, to console, to comfort, to encourage; maybe at times to rebuke, to punish, to show the right way. With sincere concern and love, accompanied by humble prayer, we shall touch not only a shoulder or another hand, but also a heart.

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Ka Partner Ka!

4th Corporate Social Responsibility Week 2003 July

9 Wednesday — Karunungan at Kalinangan.

8:00 - 9:30 REGISTRATION
10:00 - 11:30 OPENING OF EXHIBITS
OPENING CEREMONIES
Guest of Honor: Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo
12:00 - 1:30 LUNCHEON and PLENARY
Theme: Corporate Social Responsibility
Speaker: Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II
President, Ayala Corporation
1:30 - 3:30 PLENARY: BUSINESS INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION (Open)
Teacher Development • Student Development • School Infrastructure & Facilities • Multi-Media • Information Technology
Moderator: Guillermo Luz, Makati Business Club
3:45 - 5:00 IN RESTROSPECT: Moving Forward
Speakers: Dep Ed Sec. Edilberto de Jesus
Former Sec. Andrew Gonzalez
Former Sec. Armand Fabella
Moderator: Solita Monsod
1:30 - 3:30 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS (Concurrent to Plenary - Open)
Ayala Foundation - USA • Children's Hour • Creative Fund Raising • Foundation for Sustainable Societies • KALAHI-CIDSS • Peace & Equity Foundation • UNDP Small Grants Programme • Mindanao Business Council
5:30 FELLOWSHIP NIGHT with MIRANT PHILIPPINES
Edgardo A. Bautista
President & CEO, Mirant Philippines
DAILY ON-SITE ACTIVITIES: (from JULY 9 to 11)
• Photo Exhibits/Program Exhibits/Resource Center: 8 A.M. To 4 P.M.
• Fun, Friendship And Learning At The Knowledge Camp: Daily 8:00-11:00 A.M.; 1:00-4:00 P.M.
• Wellness Booth: Free Blood Pressure Taking, Blood Typing, Cholesterol Testing, ECG, Fitness Sessions; Foot Spa, Massage: 9:00A.M. To 4:00 P.M.
• Bloodletting
• Smoke-Emission Testing

10 Thursday — Kalikasan at Kalusugan.

8.00 - 10:00 PLENARY: PARTNERING IN ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES (Open)
• ABS-CBN Bantay Kalikasan: Save the La MesaWatershed
• Ayala Foundation: Solid Waste Management
• First Philippine Conservation, Inc.
• FPHC-PBSP: Paliparan Integrated Community Development Program
• Mirant Philippines: Carbon Sink Initiative
10:15 - 12:00 PLENARY: BRIDGING LEADERSHIP (Open)
Speaker: Prof. Ernesto Garilao, AIM
12:00 - 1:45 LUNCHEON and PLENARY
Theme: PARTNERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
Speakers: Secretary Elisea G. Gozun, DENR
Motassim A. Al-Ma'ashouq, President, PETRON
Governor Leonardo Roman, Bataan
Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, UNDP-IMO
2:00 - 3:30 HERITAGE CONSERVATION and PROGRESS: KA PARTNER BA? (Open)
2:30 - 3:20 LEADERS FOR HEALTH (Open)
3:20 - 3:45 WATERLESS MUNICIPALITIES (Open)
3:45 - 5:00 OVERVIEW OF PHILIPPINE BIODIVERSITY (Open)
3:45 - 5:15 VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT (Open)
2:00 - 3:30 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS (Open)
• Saving a World Wonder: The Ifugao Rice Terraces
• Integrated Microelectronics, Inc. (IMI)
• Inquirer and Linis-Ganda Waste Segregation and Recycling
• Petron's Volunteerism In Action (VIA)
• Tribong MFI
• Gawad Kalinga
3:30 - 5:00 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS (Open)
• Community Development through Health Intervention
• Disaster Management
• Kilusan Ligtas Malaria
• Stay Healthy: Don't Start ...... Smoking!
• TB in the Workplace
5:30 AEROBICS and TAI-CHI

11 Friday — Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran.

8:00 10:00 PLENARY: STEP-UP: BUSINESS SECTOR-LED PARTNERSHIP IN URBAN POVERTY REDUCTION IN METRO-MANILA (Open)
Session Chair: Juan B. Santos
Chairman, Nestlé (Philippines) and PBSP Center for Corporate Citizenship
10:15 - 12:00 PLENARY: CEO FORUM ON SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP
• Presentation of Paper on Social Entrepreneurship by Myrna Cacho
• Case Presentation by La Frutera: Senen Bacani/Datu Ibrahim Paglas III
• CEO Reactors: Rex Drilon II, COO, Ortigas & Co.; Oscar Torralba, President, Town Holdings Corporation and Pacita Juan, Director, Figaro Foundation
12:00 1:30 LUNCHEON and PLENARY
Theme: Youth Entrepreneurship
Speaker: Eliseo Santiago, Country Chair, Shell Companies in the Philippines
1:30 3:00 PLENARY: TEACHING COMMUNITY ON DOING BUSINESS WITH BUSINESS - "KA SOSYO KA!" (Open)
• Business Working with an Intermediary
• Business Working with Cooperatives
• Microfinance
• Business Counselor for SMEs (c/o MAP)
1:30 NEW PAPER DRIVE TURNOVER CEREMONY
• Philippine Daily Inquirer
3:00 - 5:00 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS (Open)
HOW TO BE A SUPPLIER
• SM • PHIL. AMALGAMATED SUPERMARKET ASSN.
• TOBY'S • PHILIPPINE SEVEN CORPORATION
• NESTLE • RFM • BUENOMANO CRAFTS • VILLAR
• VITARICH CORPORATION • SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION
RTD: Understanding the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003 (Philip Morris)
4:00 5:00 PLENARY: BENCHMARKING CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP IN THE PHILIPPINES (Open)
Speaker: Pedro Roxas, CEO & President, CADP Group Corporation
Co-Chair, PBSP Center for Corporate Citizenship
5:00 CLOSING CEREMONIES
Guest of Honor: Manuel V. Pangilinan, CEO & President, PLDT
Chairman, Philippine Business for Social Progress
5:30 COCKTAILS AND NETWORKING
Sponsored by: Philam/AIG Group of Companies and San Miguel Corporation

Due to increased participation, venue has been transferred to PICC. For inquiries, please call: 8929189; 8929084 or visit www.lcf.org.ph

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Ka Partner Ka! sa Kapayapaan at Kaunlaran

Children paint for peace on kilometer-long canvas

From page A1

the Office of the Presidential Adviser for Special Concerns, Office of the President of the Philippines, and Manila's city government.

Sen. Loren Legarda and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza did the opening brush strokes for the canvas laid on the ground and stretching from Quirino Avenue to Pedro Gil Street.

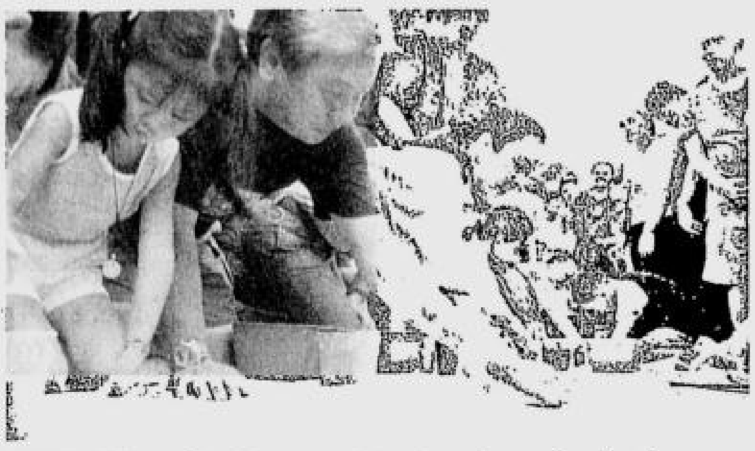
Advocacy

Legarda, who painted a tree with birds flying overhead, said the activity "highlights our peace advocacy."

"It brings attention of people from all sectors to the importance of peace. It will make people more aware and more conscious of the importance of peace, and it can be attained through our expressions in art," she said.

The children's participation was important, Legarda said. "They have a stake in their own future. They should also help out in trying to promote peace. They have a big stake. They should also participate."

Atienza, who created an abstract form of dots and stripes, said in his speech that he was inspired by the children, "the true hope of our future."



MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza and Sen. Loren Legarda enjoy the opening brushes of the peace project with the children. ERIK ARAZAS

By bringing families together, he said, the activity itself was already promoting peace. "When there is peace in the home, there will be peace in the nation," he added.

Rea Uy, executive director of Children Now! 3, said more than 7,000 children, who were accompanied by their parents and other relatives, showed up at yesterday's painting session. The organizers earlier said 4,075 had confirmed participation, including 731 members of Kids for Christ, an affiliate of the Catholic charismatic group Couples for Christ.

The young artists sat on both sides of the canvas to express their peace sentiments.

Reactions

Dhanna Mae Manlulu, a Grade 4 pupil of St. Theresa's College and a member of Kids for Christ, said she hoped that "the people in Mindanao will become united so that there will be peace in the whole world."

Another member, Marianne Eve Labitoña, said the activity taught children "how to paint and become friendly." The fourth grader from the Lycee N'Regis Marie school in Sucat, Parañaque City, said she hoped more children would join them.

Children from the Buklod Diwa Daycare in Pasay City, under the auspices of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, were among the participants.

Glacel Bilaran, 6, and her younger brother Christopher painted a house, trees and people.

"*Masaya. Maganda po 'yung* painting (I'm happy. The painting is nice)," Glacel said as she scrubbed the paint off her hands.

Roseanne Perez, a Grade 6 pupil of the Andres Bonifacio Elementary School on Leveriza Street, Pasay, simply traced the patterns of the bricks beneath the canvas for a beautiful pattern.

"It's more fun to paint with your fingers than with a brush because I did not know what I was going to paint," Perez said. She also admired the work of her peers. "The heart with the sun in the middle is beautiful."

Hearing-impaired sixth-graders from Gen. Maximino Hizon Elementary School in Manila created a landscape of birds flying toward a sun.

"Children Now!" was first organized in Krakow, Poland in 1996. It was spearheaded by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) Center in Krakow and the Studio Aneks Art Gallery. It has since been celebrated every first Sunday of July.

The project was launched in the Philippines in 2001, through the initiative of the Unesco Club of Metro Manila, Mga Kabataan Inc. (Kabataan Bantay at Tagapagsulong sa Pagasenso ng Bayan), and Filipino Arts Online.

Last year, the Philippines participated in this global project in Krakow during the 2nd World Youth Forum.

NPA drug links raw info, says PDEA exec

From page A1

peace negotiations," Bunye said over radio RMN. "But the atmosphere should be conducive and we must see that those who we are talking to are following the law."

If the NPA indeed controlled marijuana plantations, the PDEA official admitted the government's campaign against illegal drugs would only get tougher.

With only around 700 agents, the PDEA would not be able to enter plantations without the backing of the AFP and the PNP.

The PDEA has promised to destroy 50 of the 98 marijuana plantations nationwide by September, the end of the three-month campaign.

The source said the PDEA had also discovered that some of these plantations were controlled by big businessmen.

Steep involvement

NPA spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal yesterday sought to turn the tables on the government.

Rosal said the President "hypocritically hides the fact it is her own Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police and civilian bureaucracy, from top to bottom, which are the ones steeply engaged in and behind the illegal drug business," he said in a statement. He did not offer any evidence.

"In fact, not one of the more than 215 big drug syndicates in the country operate without the protection of and conspiracy with the AFP, PNP and civilian government from the national down to the local level," Rosal said in a statement sent to the INQUIRER.

Rosal ridiculed the President's renewed campaign. "They can arrest all of the tens of thousands of pushers they want," he said, "yet the drug problem will not be solved because the ones making the arrests are the ones behind the illegal drug business in the country."

"Not one of the big syndicates and their high military-police-bureaucratic connections are touched at all," he added.

In contrast, Rosal claimed, the NPA was winning the battle against illegal drugs in areas under its control.

"In areas where the Red political power exists, especially in the guerrilla bases and consolidated guerrilla zones, the drug problem has been decisively minimized if not totally eradicated," he said.

Rosal claimed the rebel group was organizing "millions of young people" to worthy endeavors such as rural production to keep them from illegal substances.

In areas where marijuana plantations are a common source of income, the spokesperson said, the NPA is urging residents to find other means of livelihood.

Mixed message

The President continued to broadcast her dual message to the communist rebels, offering the olive branch while brandishing a mailed fist.

Ms Macapagal devoted her entire radio message yesterday, and nearly every day of the past week, to talk to the public about the treachery and "wicked deeds" of the communist rebels and their leaders.

Yesterday, she warned local officials and candidates against giving "revolutionary taxes" and "permit to campaign" (PTC) fees to the rebels.

"Alliances with the NPA are alliances with terrorists," she said in her weekly radio message.

The PTCs are fees collected by communist rebels from candidates who want to campaign in areas they control or where they have a substantial presence.

Ms Macapagal said collecting this fee was one of the "terrorist fund-raising activities" of the NPA.

She said nonpayment of the PTCs often puts officials in grave peril.

But she asked the people: "They have been doing this immoral activity for a long time. It's time to put a stop to this so that we will have deserving local officials instead of those supported by the NPAs who have no right to lead in your communities." *With reports from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; AFP, AP*

BF targets . . .

From page A1

form is clean and pressed.

If you don't have a uniform, at least wear a shirt, preferably with a collar, also clean and pressed. Shorts and *sandos*? Cool—but only on your days off.

And put on shoes, for goodness' sake, not slippers or sandals.

With clean socks, of course.

Yours is a career in public service, if you ask the Metro Manila Development Authority. You should always look neat, decent, and trustworthy on the job.

These are the rules. You could be arrested or fined for violations.

On Saturday, MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando made the drivers and conductors—all male—of six buses come down from their vehicles for looking shabby. The drivers wore either slippers or sandals, and one was in a grease-stained shirt; the conductors were "improperly attired."

Two of the six buses were air-conditioned.

In full view of the passengers, as well as passersby on Ortigas Avenue, the offenders were told that good grooming on the job was imperative, and that untidiness was unwise.

"There are rules that require them to be wearing shoes and uniforms," Fernando told the INQUIRER later in a phone interview.

The drivers were eventually allowed back behind the wheel, but their conductors were left behind and sent home.

Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios, who was with Fernando on Saturday, said neither the drivers nor the conductors were fined or given citations.

"We just made sure they remembered the incident and learned their lesson," Vergel de Dios said.

He explained: "An unhygienic conductor makes passengers suffer. He interacts and comes into close physical contact with them. Imagine how the passengers feel, with a dirty conductor?"

If the traffic director meant one in a smelly shirt, with foul breath—and sometimes a mouth just as foul—walking back and forth or, in cases of overloading, squeezing his way through—imagine how the passengers could breathe.

As for the driver of any public utility vehicle, Vergel de Dios said, how could passengers be expected to fully trust one wearing shorts and slippers?

"We don't ask them to be in spanking new clothes and footwear all the time," he stressed, "just clean ones."

In short, well-worn is fine, as long as it's worn well, and washed.

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Mobile phone ring tones now mega-business

From page A1

"In markets like (South) Korea and Japan, we see the adoption of more sophisticated content and application already happening. In most of Southeast Asia and China, SMS-based content downloads have been extremely popular and we expect this segment of the market to continue growing in the medium term."

More cell phone users

The foundation behind the boom is the increase in the number of mobile phone users in Asia.

In 1998, just 3.8 percent of the region's population had a mobile phone. This year, 18 percent of Asians have a cellular phone, according to Pyramid.

And with Japan and South Korea leading the way, 55 percent of mobile phone users in Asia now download.

The growing range being offered as downloads includes Java games, wallpaper designs, animated greetings, ring tones, the latest pop songs and pictures of celebrities.

New generation

But it is the new generation of downloads that analysts believe will fuel the expected tripling of the market by 2008.

The Nokia 3300, billed as the first mobile phone for GSM markets that can support ring tones with real music and sounds, is a pointer to the future. The phone allows users to have songs, and nature and engine sounds, among other special effects, to alert them of an incoming call.

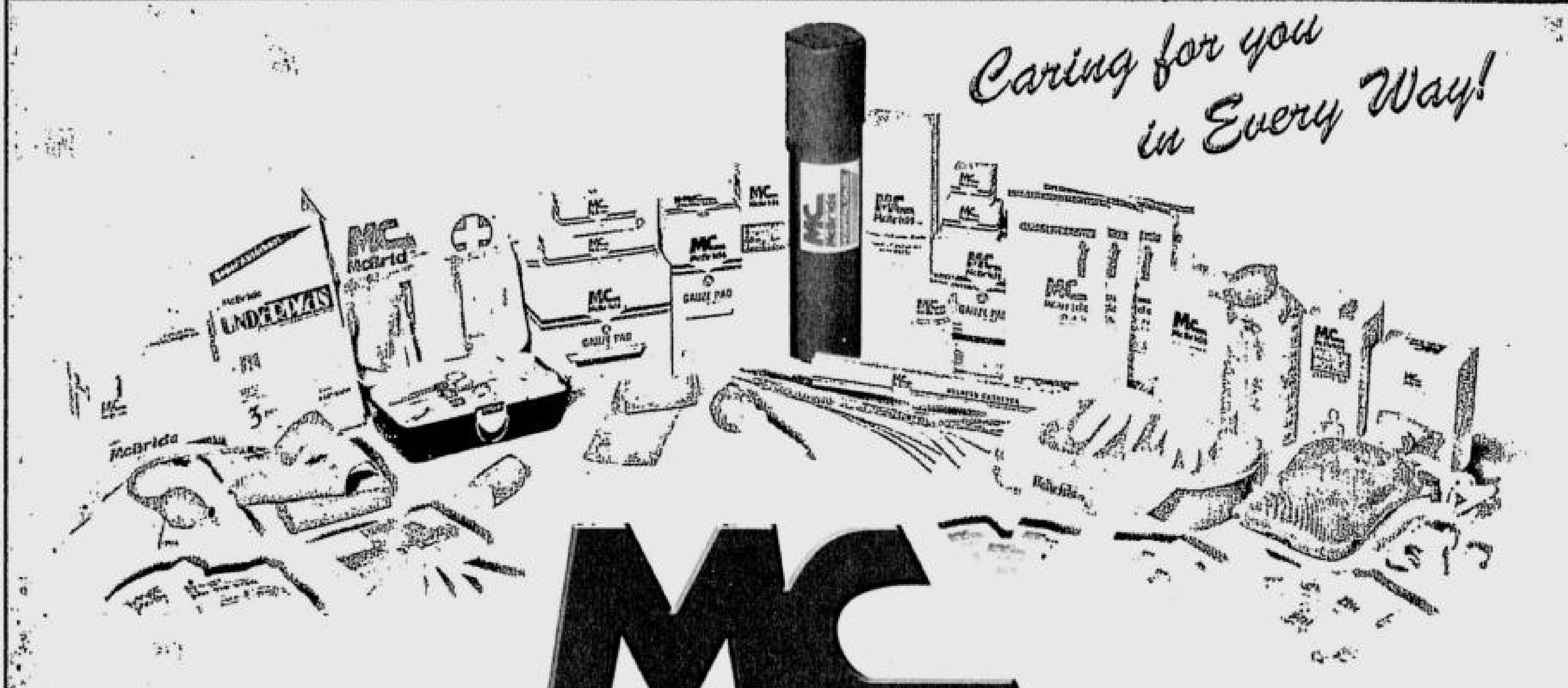
The industry is also looking to Singapore, where 80 percent of the population has a mobile phone and downloading advertisements dominate the classifieds pages of the city's tabloid newspapers, as another sign of things to come.

"Asians are willing to accept an increase of 10 to 15 percent in their mobile phone bill for content like ring tones, games and other applications," said Cyrille Even, general manager of Singapore-based MobileWay Asia-Pacific.

Singapore student Isabel Chng, 18, confirmed Even's analysis, saying she was willing to spend 10 percent of her mobile phone bill on downloading.

"Not all phones can compose ring tones and I like different ring tones all the time, especially new English pop songs that I like," Chng said.

Although ring tones and logos are still the most popular downloads, a Singapore Telecommunications (Singtel) spokesperson said demand for games, which are more expensive, was growing. *AFP*



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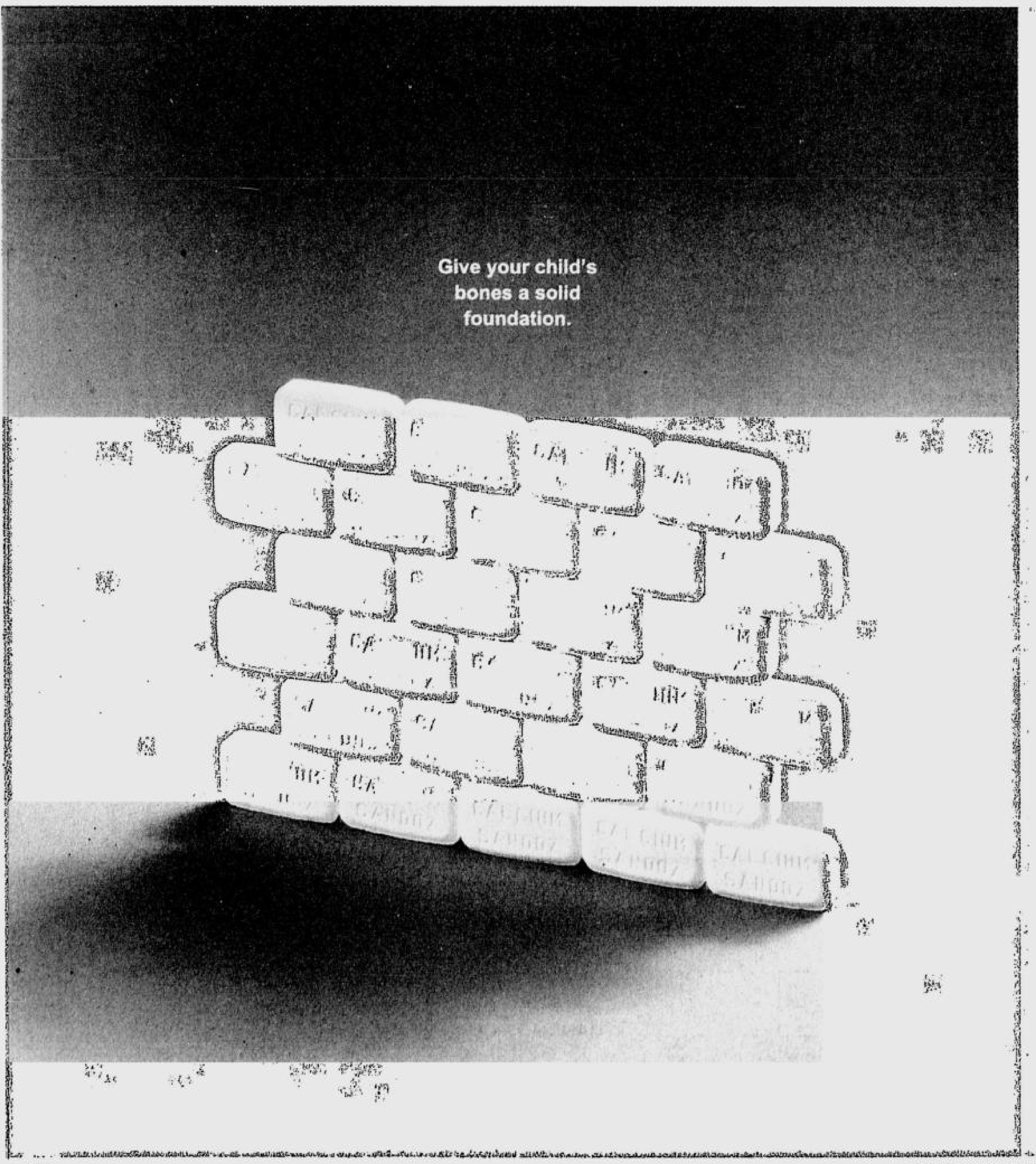

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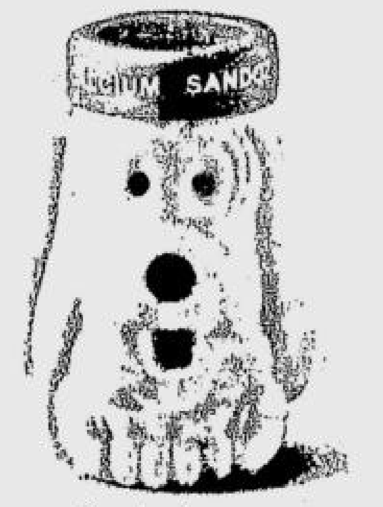

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Yorac blocks Maceda seat in San Miguel

From page A1

fice of the President, and Undersecretary Charito R. Eligir, Yorac listed the reasons for her "opposition to (the) possible nomination of Mr. Ernesto T. Maceda as director" to replace Juan B. Santos, the Nestlé executive.

The INQUIRER acquired a copy of Yorac's June 10 letter, which was a response to the search committee's May 30 letter asking her "for comment and recommendation, (on) the instruction of the President to elect Mr. Ernesto T. Maceda as Member, Board of Directors, SMC."

In her reply, Yorac said her "serious opposition to the nomination of Mr. Maceda was founded on several reasons," including the following:

- It will be contrary to the legal, moral and public policy principles underlying the filing of ill-gotten wealth cases by the PCGG against Cojuangco, a crony of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.
- It will be a betrayal of the interest of millions of small coconut farmers.
- It is inconsistent with good corporate governance and will send a wrong signal to investors.
- It is inconsistent with the Supreme Court's views that the coconut levy funds are public in character.
- It contradicts the very mandate of the PCGG to fight corruption.
- It is questionable under Republic Act No. 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

The PCGG chair said six million small coconut farmers would feel betrayed with Maceda's appointment.

"(They) have campaigned long and hard for the recovery of more than P100 billion in assets illegitimately acquired by Cojuangco from coconut levy funds," Yorac said in her letter. "These organized coconut farmers identify Cojuangco, together with the late Ferdinand Marcos and certain Marcos cronies, as the principal architects behind the extraction of the coconut levy."

Yorac recalled Ms Macapagal's State of the Nation Address in 2001, where she declared that the levy, once recovered, would be used to modernize the coconut industry.

In a landmark ruling, the Supreme Court had characterized the levy funds as "prima facie public in character" and had directed the Sandiganbayan to finally decide the ill-gotten wealth cases against Cojuangco.

Intensive care

Yorac has recovered from a stroke she suffered early this year. But she also underwent surgery for a cancerous growth in her ovary.

In May, she was in a hospital's intensive care unit, hooked to a respirator battling severe pneumonia and kidney malfunction.

Twice her doctors almost gave up, her colleagues said. Text messages asking for prayers flew thick and fast. Her colleagues said her steady recovery was just short of miraculous. She is now out of the hospital and will undergo her third round of chemotherapy—a treatment which, she said, she does not find difficult at all.

"I have gained five pounds," she told the INQUIRER. She has regained her voice and is eating well on her own, she said.

Yorac regularly meets with PCGG commissioners. She's even had a few shots of sake with former SC Associate Justice Abraham Sarmiento. She takes red wine regularly, and stuffs herself with mangosteen. She also receives Holy Communion every day.

Now that Yorac is back, PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza said he was no longer the agency's officer in charge. Policy statements will now come from Yorac, he said.

But Carranza had a statement to make about Maceda's possible entry into San Miguel, one of the country's largest companies.

If Maceda is appointed, he said, the PCGG could be accused of corrupt practices under RA 3019, for "causing any undue injury to any party, including the government, or giving any party any unwarranted benefits."

Carranza said the PCGG was eagerly awaiting the Sandiganbayan's summary judgment on the ownership of the United Coconut Planters Bank, the oil mills and the shares of stock in the Coconut Industry Investment Fund.

Once judgment is rendered, Yorac said she expects the cases to go to the Supreme Court on appeal. "We feel confident with our theory about the levy's acquisition. That's why we do not want delays in order that the cases are not subjected to political consideration."

And what if Maceda gets his seat?

"We will cross that bridge when we get there," Yorac said. Then she quoted her favorite maxim: "*Fiat justitia ruat caelum.* Let justice be done though the heavens fall."

Suicide blasts hit Moscow rock concert, 15 dead

From page A1

with metal detectors and dogs inspecting people who enter, according to the order.

"The interior ministry asks citizens to show patience and understanding of such necessary measures," the ministry said in a statement.

First blast

The first blast went off at one of the entrances to the festival at the Tushino airfield as the Russian band Crematorium played for a crowd estimated at up to 40,000. Another went off about 10 minutes later as spectators tried to leave by another gate.

Officials said the first bomber's device did not go off completely and that most of the casualties were caused by the second explosion.

Guards at the festival entrances were suspicious of the women and prevented them from entering the grounds, said First Deputy Interior Minister Rashid Nurgaliyev.

"When they approached the entrance, their agitation was visible. They tried to get in too fast and were turned away," he said.

A memorial service for those killed in the attacks was to be held Sunday in Moscow's Christ the Savior Cathedral.

Aslambek Maigov, the envoy of Chechen rebel president Aslan Maskhadov, denied that Maskhadov was connected to the bombings. But the Chechen rebels are deeply factionalized and only a small portion are believed to follow Maskhadov's direction.

The attack came hours after Russian President Vladimir Putin signed an order setting presidential election in Chechnya for Oct. 5. The elections are the latest step in Putin's strategy of trying to bring a political resolution in the Caucasus republic even as fighting continues.

Attack condemned

Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexy II urged Russians to remain calm and not to panic following Saturday's attack, Interfax reported.

A senior Russian Muslim leader condemned the attack. "The people who did this are not human ... The Almighty does not need sacrifices like this, the true warriors of Islam have truly different aims," Interfax quoted the head of the Russian Mufti council, Ravil Gainutdin, as saying.

European and Israeli leaders and officials also strongly condemned the suicide bombing.

At the Council of Europe, where Russia is frequently criticized for human rights infractions carried out by its army in Chechnya, the president of the body's parliamentary assembly Peter Schieder said "no cause in the world justifies the premeditated murder of innocent youths."

Britain also expressed outrage at the bombings. "I condemn in the strongest possible terms this horrific and indiscriminate attack on innocent people," Foreign Minister Bill Rammell said in a statement.

The leaders of France, Germany and Israel, as well as Romania and Ukraine, also condemned the attacks.

Reports from AP and AFP

Woman's father says bishop 'divine' in-law

From page A1

husband in Marikina City. He said his family was aware of her situation as a battered-wife.

He said Christine decided to end the relationship after almost three years, after she could no longer bear his cruelty.

Christine has a child with her former husband.

He said Christine and Bishop Yalung met during that turbulent time, when she needed some advice.

"A battered woman has two options: first, to kneel before the altar and pray, and second, to go astray, with a sharp eye and grinding teeth, and seek revenge."

Rances said Christine probably opted for the first one and went to the Antipolo Church to seek "divine intervention."

"She probably found comfort in Yalung's advice and later on, the two fell in love," he added.

Only natural

Rances said he seldom saw his daughter after he opted to stay in Daraga town in Albay upon retiring as a seaman.

He said that at first his family was shocked upon learning about the relationship. "But I think it's natural. They're both human beings. In fact, I'm so proud."

He stressed that his family, including Christine's two brothers and two sisters, was at peace after they learned that Yalung was such a kind person.

"My wife and my children were more worried when Christine was frequently punched by her first husband, but here came the savior, a bishop himself, who provided all the needs of Christine and her children. We felt more relieved than ever before. If before, Christine suffered from being beaten up, with Bishop Yalung, she no longer experienced that. In fact, she was the one who beat Yalung," he added jokingly.

Rances recalled that whenever his daughter and Yalung had an argument, the bishop would see to it that the problem was settled at the soonest possible time by sending roses or other flowers to Christine.

He also described Yalung as "supportive, understanding and divine," the exact opposite of her husband, Rances said.

Rances said he yearned for a baby boy when he learned that Christine was pregnant. It turned out to be a girl.

"When I talked to her on the phone, I told her jokingly that, this time, she and Bishop Yalung should make a boy so that he could be a bishop like his father," he said, laughing.

Rances described Christine, the youngest of his five children, as having the strongest personality and as being very friendly.

He dismissed rumors that Christine was a guest relations officer or a prostitute.

"They say she's a GRO, I really doubt it. She will not do that. She graduated in medical technology and she will never resort to such kind of thing (in exchange for money).

"That's not the personality of Christine. It's true that she's beautiful and charming—the reason she's the 'crush *ng bayan*' here and the very fact Bishop Yalung even fell for her," he told the INQUIRER.

Rances said that, up to now, he has not met Yalung personally or even talked to him over the phone.

"I wish we could meet in person," he said.

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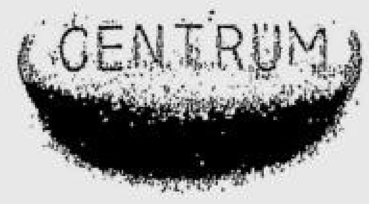

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Lost, then found: A turtle finds hope

VETERINARIAN Rizza Salinas (second from left) of the DENR Wildlife Rescue Center fills out a checklist as ICTSI officials Raul Venturina (left) and Jupiter Kalambakal (third from left) turn over the turtle rescued at the MICT breakwater in Manila.

IT WAS almost dead when residents of Isla Puting Bato found it along the east breakwater of the Manila International Container Terminal (MICT) at the South Harbor in Manila.

Not knowing what to do with the stray, one-and-a-half foot long, olive green *pawikan* that weighed 8 kg, the residents gave it to officers of the International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) who immediately realized that it was an endangered species.

The ICTSI, which manages the MICT, then did the right thing: It turned the turtle over to the Wildlife Rescue Center (WRC) of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau, an agency of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

At the WRC in Diliman, Quezon City, resident veterinarian Rizza Salinas identified the turtle as a 10-year-old male Olive Ridley turtle (Lepidochelys olivacea), one of five marine turtle species found in the Philippines.

Salinas said the sea turtle was "still young" considering that an Olive Ridley sexually matures between 20 to 30 years of age. It has an average lifespan of 50 years.

WRC veterinarians have put the turtle under a 30-day quarantine as they nurse it back to health, afterwhich it would again be released to the wild.

Nesting grounds for Olive Ridleys have been found in Mindoro and Zambales.

The Olive Ridley is the most abundant of sea turtles but poaching and the destruction of its nests have led to its declaration as an endangered species.

Security measures set in clearing ops

By Leila B. Salaverria

TO PREVENT more deaths and injuries during its sidewalk clearing operations, the Metro Manila Development Authority will be implementing additional security measures to protect its personnel and passersby as well as the vendors.

MMDA officials came up with the decision after a bystander, Poon Baceron, was shot and killed during clearing operations in Baclaran, Friday afternoon.

The MMDA will be proposing increased police visibility and a saturation drive of critical areas before actual clearing will be done.

Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said he would meet with National Capital Region Police Office director Gen. Reynaldo Velasco today to discuss these measures.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando yesterday reiterated his desire to have more authorities watching over the clearing operations to guard against vendors' attacks.

Vergel de Dios, for his part, said he would suggest that a saturation drive be conducted by the police in areas to be cleared in order to catch those with illegal firearms.

The police are still trying to determine who fired the shot that killed Baceron.

There were reports that the shot came from the gun of an MMDA civilian agent. But MMDA officials insisted that they had no civilian agents and that all their personnel were in uniform.

Baceron is the second person to die during a clearing operation. The first was vendor Eladio Tuacar, who was shot dead by a policeman who retaliated when the vendor allegedly shot at MMDA personnel.

An MMDA official, who requested anonymity, told the INQUIRER that sidewalk vendors were starting to fight back because big money was involved.

He cited the case of one group of Baclaran vendors who offered him a P20,000-a-month fee just for him to warn the group of scheduled clearing operations.

The MMDA has since put up a 24-hour watch on Baclaran.

But for a militant group, the MMDA should just let go of the operations and leave it up to the mayors instead.

Sanlakas Public Information Officer Don Pangan said Metro Manila mayors should insist on the sidewalk clearing responsibility.

Pangan said it would be easier for mayors to negotiate with the vendors, something that Fernando had failed to do.

MMDA takes mobile office right through busy streets

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE METRO Manila Development Authority has literally taken its official business to the streets.

Recently, it acquired the MMDA Mobile Office, a work area on wheels to be used by its officials.

The mobile office is actually a remodeled air-conditioned bus that has been outfitted with a desk, a computer, seats to be used for meetings, as well as a toilet and a cot for resting.

Traffic Operations Center director Angelito Vergel de Dios said the mobile office was meant to put the MMDA right in the middle of its concerns, namely traffic, trash and floods. He said it would allow the MMDA to immediately spot problems so that something could be done about it immediately.

"The official in the mobile office could make a decision on the spot and instruct his men to move," he explained.

The mobile office could also be used to observe the MMDA's ongoing projects to ensure that they are being done efficiently, Vergel de Dios added.

He also said the mobile office would be roving the streets occasionally, and would be ready for deployment soon after modifications were done in the work area.

Among the areas where the office-on-wheels would be deployed is Edsa, where the MMDA is currently implementing various traffic schemes.

Sidewalk clearing operations could also be supervised by officials using the mobile office as a base.

METROBRIEFS

Argument ends tanod's life

A BARANGAY *tanod* in San Andres, Manila, met his last Saturday night when a neighborhood thug stabbed him to death. Reynaldo Reynante, 46, of Linao Street, Malate and a watchman of Barangay 743, Zone 80, San Andres, died of multiple stab wounds, police said. According to witnesses, Reynante was arguing with a certain "Monching," a known neighborhood thug, along a dark alley at about 10 p.m. Minutes later, a resident discovered Reynante's dead body sprawled on the ground. A bloodied pair of stainless scissors and a pair of yellow rubber slippers were found beside him, said SPO2 Athos de Quiros. Traces of blood inside the gates of nearby houses indicated the suspect's escape path. *Margaux Ortiz*

Driver resists extortion, shot dead

FOR REPORTEDLY resisting the extortion activities of a street gang, 47-year-old jeepney driver Gerardo Galino was shot in the head in Quezon City shortly after midnight yesterday. The police said Galino of Sta. Clara Subdivision, Sampaloc 2, QC, was shot by a lone suspect who posed as a passenger. Galino was driving along Gen. Luis Street, Barangay Nagkaisang Nayon, Novaliches when the suspect suddenly shot him in the head, killing him instantly. Fellow drivers have told investigators that Galino was having problems with a gang of extortionists. *Amy Remo*

Family spat leads to maid's killing

A FAMILY dispute led to the death of a 30-year-old who was shot to death in Quezon City before dawn Sunday. Marissa Sesicon, of Bocaue, Bulacan, was found dead at 12:45 a.m. inside her employer's house on San Antonio Street, Barangay Sto. Nino, QC. She was last seen having an argument about family matters with relative Reneiso Sesicon, 30, also of Bulacan. The police said Sesicon was drunk and was carrying a hand gun. Suddenly a shot rang out and Sesicon was found with a gunshot in the chest. Reneiso fled. *Amy Remo*

QC gunplay: 2 watchmen slain

ONE THING led to another and resulted in two watchmen getting killed and another getting arrested in Quezon City yesterday morning. At about 7:20 a.m., watchmen Pablito Monesit, 42, of 2351 Tejeron St., Sta. Ana, Manila, and Giovani Camu, 24, of 95 Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, had an argument inside the Seven Star Textile Corp. compound at 7 Ocean Park Subdivision, Barangay Sauyo, Novaliches. According to PO1 Greg Maramag of the Central Police District Criminal Investigation Unit, Camu shot Monesit in a fit of rage, killing the victim instantly. Hearing the gunshot, fellow watchman Raymundo de Leon, 46, of Block 128, Lot 36, Mabuhay City Village, Dasmariñas, Cavite, rushed to the scene with his gun drawn and tried to accost Camu. But Camu reportedly jumped De Leon and a shot rang out. Camu fell wounded and was later declared dead on arrival at the QC General Hospital. De Leon turned himself over the police who are now readying homicide charges against him. *Alcuin Papa*

Job fair at Metropolis Star

THE MUNTINLUPA city government is holding the third Quarter Mega Job Fair called "Jobs for the Community 2003" at the fourth level Trade Hall of Metropolis Star in Alabang on July 11. Over 50 major companies are participating in the job fair, said Edita Dolon, mall general manager for leasing and marketing. It is part of the continuing commitment of the Star Group of Malls to support both local and national government efforts to uplift the socioeconomic standing of the Filipino family, Dolon added.

Fake doctor arrested in Taguig

ALBERT Duhaylungsod, or "Doc" to his neighbors and patients at the St. Jude Polyclinic in Taguig, has written his last prescription.

For four months, Duhaylungsod illegally practiced medicine at his clinic in Pinagsama Village, Western Bicutan, until he was exposed by a crusading television program, according to the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC).

Last week, he was arrested in an entrapment operation set up by the PRC and the Philippine National Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNPSPD-CIDG).

Duhaylungsod has been subsequently charged with estafa and illegal practice of medicine before the sala of Taguig Metropolitan Trial Court Judge Benjamin Puzon.

In a statement, the PRC said that apart from claiming to be a medical doctor, Duhaylungsod also used the names of legitimate doctors whom he claimed were "consultants" at his clinic.

Reached for comment by the crusading public service program Mission X, the doctors denied they were ever part of the suspect's clinic.

His activities were exposed after one of his victims filed a complaint with Mission X, which then checked with the PRC. It was then determined that he was not in the registry of licensed physicians.

The PRC coordinated with the PNPSPD-CIDG to undertake the entrapment operation.

SPO3 Cecile Gàrcia and a member of Mission X entered the St. Jude Polyclinic and pretended as spouses.

When Duhaylungsod began to perform the functions of a medical professional, PNP operatives barged into the clinic and apprehended him.

"We enjoin the public to remain vigilant against fake professionals. Report their activities and whereabouts," PRC Chair Antonieta Fortuna-Ibe said.

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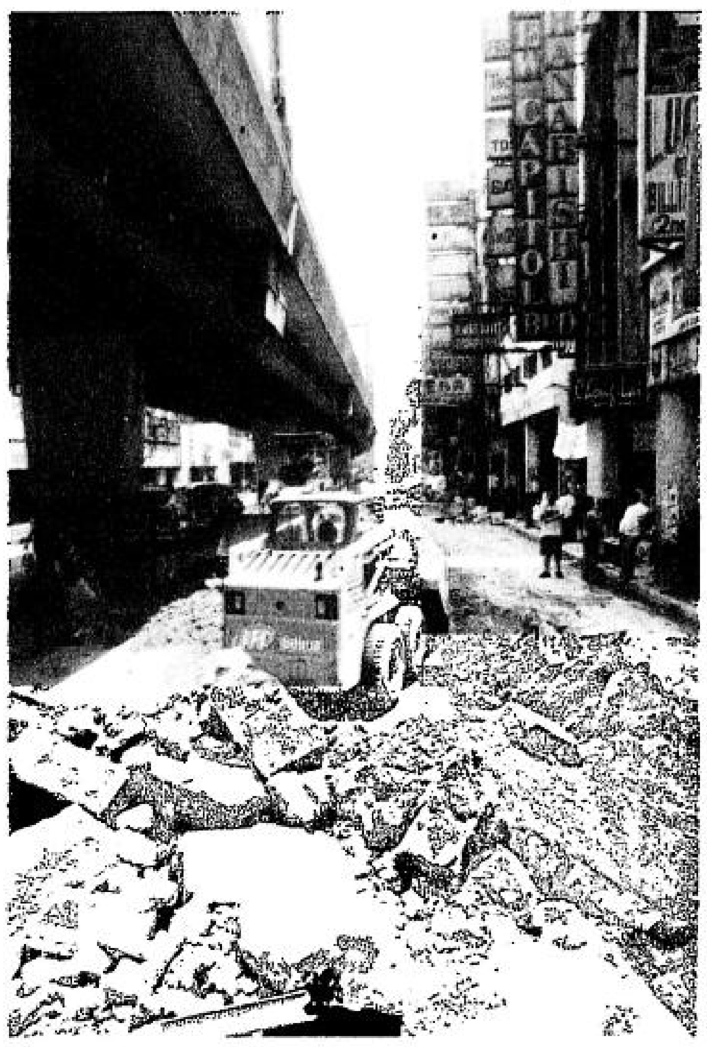


DIG, DIG, DIG

The Manila city government has started digging parts of Rizal Avenue in line with a project to turn the major thoroughfare into a business and trading hub. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Cops told: Intensify drive vs street crime

By Margaux Ortiz

STREET crimes will have no place in Metro Manila.

National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) chief Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco vowed this yesterday as he declared that the drive against street crimes remains a top priority of his office.

"We will continue to ensure a drop in Metro's crime rate in compliance with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's directive," Velasco said in a statement.

Crime-prone areas

Velasco ordered the district directors to identify the top crime-prone areas in the Metro and intensify their campaign against street crimes in these areas.

In line with this campaign, Velasco has also instructed the district directors to intensify their campaign against car theft.

The NCRPO chief said stolen vehicles are usually used in bank robberies and kidnap-for-ransom cases. He added that the anti-car theft campaign included the setting up of check points.

Velasco also enjoined the public to always bring their official receipt and certificate of registration while driving.

Velasco said the June figures on street crimes actually represented a two-percent drop compared with the figures registered in the month of May.

But he told the police they should do more to ensure a further decline in the number of crimes committed.

Based also on last month's statistics, Central Police District recorded 145 criminal cases, Southern Police District, 167; Western Police District, 128; Northern Police District, 106; and Eastern Police District, 48.

Six-point plan

Velasco also reiterated the implementation of the six-point plan in the anti-crime drive.

The plan includes the deployment of Magic Eye operatives in identified crime-prone areas to control criminals.

Velasco added that coordination between the police and barangays against petty crimes and drugs should be enhanced through the "Barangay at Pulisya Laban sa Krimen at Droga (Barangays and the Police against Crime and Drugs)."

Partnership

He also said a stronger NCRPO and local government partnership should be maintained by tapping local chief executives to take part in the anti-crime campaign.

Velasco added that a sustained drive against crimes, particularly kidnapping, bank robberies and killings, and the activation of Huli Agad, Pulis Mabilis, and Task Force Tulungan will greatly help in the success of their campaign.

"Lastly, the community's support is necessary in ensuring our success against criminality," Velasco said.

The NCRPO chief added that he is encouraging the citizenry to immediately report a crime to the police through PNP Text 2920, Magic Eye Txt Patrol 2910 and the DILG Police Assistance Hotline 117.

Scolded

President Arroyo had scolded police officials at a command conference in Malacañang last February for failing to protect the public from thieves, muggers and other bad guys prowling the streets.

She told police officials that police response to street crimes "has not been satisfactory."

She also noted that there were "widespread perceptions" that crime is on the rise, that the police are ineffective, and that the government is unable to protect people's lives and property from criminals.'

Vans containing smuggled onions and ginger seized

By Norman Bordadora

SOME P14 million worth of smuggled ginger and onions were seized by the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Customs during a raid at the Manila South Harbor over the weekend.

The cargo, consigned to Brevity Trading Corp., which consisted of 14 40-foot containers, had been declared by the Manila-based trading firm to contain 21,000 bags of garlic.

The DA and Customs team, however, opened the shipment and found commercial volumes of ginger and onion in the vans. Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo was among the officials who took part in the raid.

Lorenzo said that apart from the confiscation of the contraband, the agriculture department and law-enforcement agencies will file criminal charges against erring consignees and brokers.

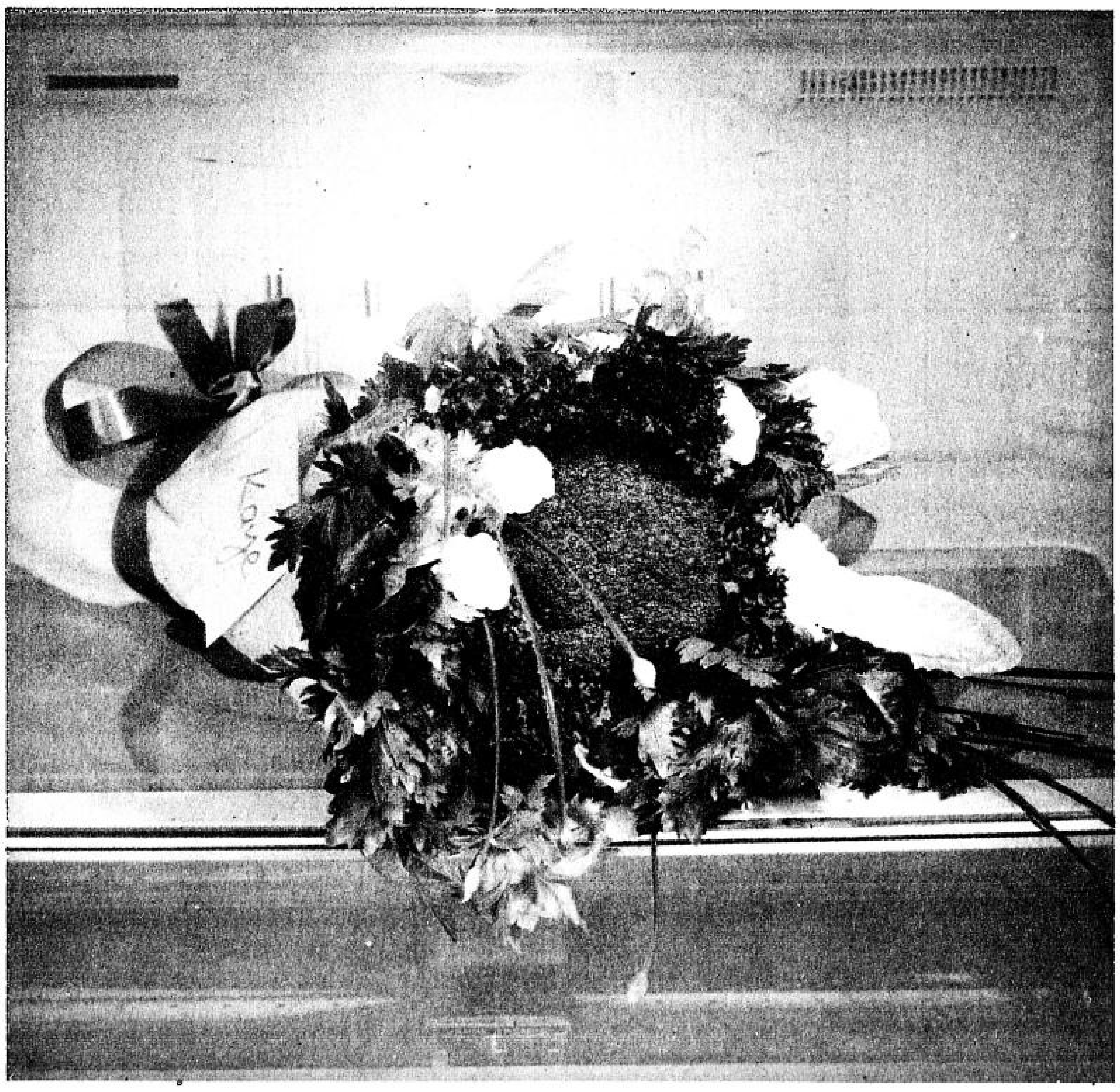
"There is obviously misdeclaration of goods, or what is called technical smuggling. We have to stop this illegal practice or else our local farmers would continue to suffer," Lorenzo said.

He said the DA will continue to closely coordinate with the Bureau of Customs, the Presidential Security Group, and vigilant farmers groups led by Mt. Province Gov. Sario Malinias and Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas in combatting smuggling of agri products to the country.

Lorenzo said his agency is studying appropriate safety nets and crafting various plans and program designed to make Filipino farmers and fisherfolk improve their production efficiency so they can be at par with foreign agricultural producers.

Smuggling of vegetables and other farm commodities had been a problem for farmers and government authorities in the past, but the practice seemed to have gotten worse in recent years since the country joined the World Trade Organization and subsequently relaxed its farm goods importation rules.

Lorenzo has asked the international community to allow developing countries to attain international standards in food safety, food security and trade before being subjected to foreign competition that is heavily supported by governments of rich nations.



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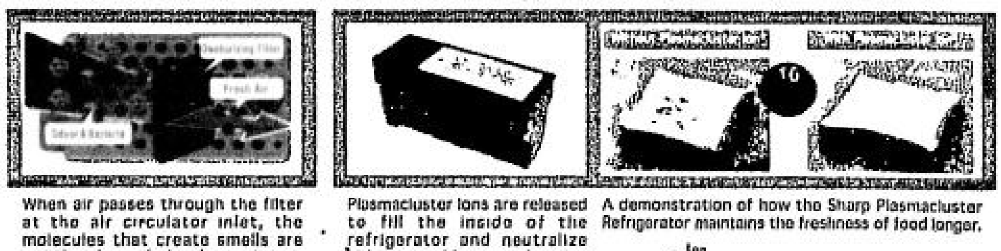

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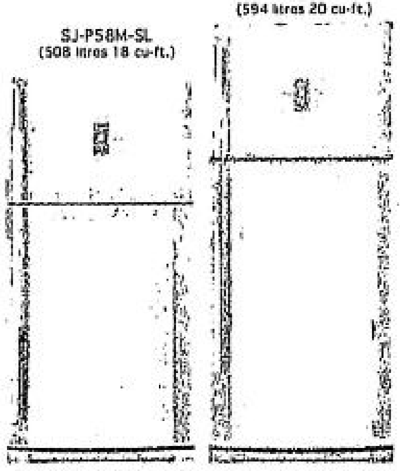

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GAMES WEDNESDAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
5 p.m.—Alaska vs Shell (qualifying)
7:30 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs TNT (Game 4)

TALK N Text destroyed Coca-Cola's cloak of invincibility and pulled off a 67-59 victory at the Araneta Coliseum last night to post its first win in the Samsung-PBA All Filipino Cup Finals.

The Tigers, who flaunted their shooting prowess in Games 1 and 2, failed to connect this time, allowing the Phone Pals to steal Game 3 and move a win away of squaring the best-of-seven titular series at 1-2.

"It's just one win and I can't be too confident about it. The reality is we're still down 1-2," said Talk N Text coach Joel Banal.

"But in contrast to Games 1 and 2, they (Tigers) missed their outside shots, allowing us to pull off this one," he added.

Bong Ravena played hero for the Phone Pals as he drained a short jumper and converted two pressure-packed freethrows that neutralized a ferocious comeback by the Tigers.

Ravena's jumper at the top of the key and his pair of charities broke the Phone Pals' two-minute silence.

"It wouldn't have come to that had we made our outside shots. We shot poorly and that made the difference," said Coca-Cola coach Chot Reyes.

Both teams fared poorly from the perimeter, with the Tigers making only 26 of their 75 attempts and the Phone Pals converting just 23 shots out of 76.

Scores:

TALK N TEXT 67—Taulava 20, Alapag 12, Carey 10, Ravena 10, Telan 8, Fran 3, Pablo 2, Belano 2, Manalo 0.

COCA-COLA 59— Reavis 16, Carlaso 14, Hatfield 13, Abarrientos 6, Hugnatan 2, Avenido 2, Wainwright 2, Morano 2, Antonio 2, Bolado 0, Juinio 0.

Quarters: 17-13, 36-33, 51-41, 67-69.

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WHAT'S INSIDE

- Tiger pulls away with six-shot lead /A26

- Serena triumphs at Wimby again /A30

- Generation UAAP /A27-30
- Aussie rules Tour prologue /A30

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

MOTOR SPORTS: F1 Mobil 1 French Grand Prix; 8 a.m.; Star Sports - High speed F1 action continues in France.

TENNIS: Wimbledon; Day 13 Highlights; 8 a.m. (r - 6:30 p.m.); Men's Singles Final and Ladies Doubles Final; 11 a.m. (r); Star Sports - Catch the last day of competition in England.

With GMA around, Realtors rip Kings

By June Navarro

WITH President Arroyo making a historic appearance in a PBA game yesterday, the Sta. Lucia Realtors pulled off a masterful 100-92 win over Barangay Ginebra in the Mabuhay Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Realtors, ousted by the Coca-Cola Tigers in their fight for a title slot in the Samsung All Filipino Cup, vented their frustrations on the Kings in their initial outing in the single-round elimination to decide the last berth to the Asian Invitationals set to start late this month.

The President along with First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and presidential daughter Luli occupied ringside seats when they arrived early in the last quarter of the game completely dominated by the Realtors.

It was the first time the country's Chief Executive came to watch a PBA game since the league's inception in 1975.

Although Ms Macapagal had previously attended a PBA encounter like former President Joseph Estrada, both were still the country's vice presidents then.

Ms Macapagal and her party left after the game.

Before leaving, however, the First Gentleman announced during a brief press conference a tie-up between the PBA and the First Gentleman Foundation in the search for the FG Sportsmanship Award.

Arroyo said the FG Sportsmanship Award would go to the PBA player exemplifying the virtues of discipline, sportsmanship, charity, professionalism, clean living and a perfect role model to the youth.

The winner of the award will pocket P100,000 while another P100,000 will go to the player's favorite charity, Arroyo said.

The judges will come from the PBA, the PBA Presscorps and some of officials of the FG Foundation to be headed by Rod Nepomuceno.

The FG Foundation will also sponsor 12 regional outreach programs where players are expected to touch base with the public and show the importance of sports in the countryside.

Shell, Purefoods and Alaska are the other teams vying for the right to join early qualifiers Red Bull, San Miguel Beer, FedEx, Talk N Text and Coca-Cola in the second conference invitationals where three foreign teams and the RP men's squad will also see action.

Dennis Espino topscored with 28 points and Francis Adriano added 23 for the Realtors, who unveiled a surprise package in Paeng Santos.

Activated from the reserve list to replace the injured Chris Tan, Santos drained four three-pointers and finished with 14 points.

``We're hurting. But the good thing was we are still in the groove against Ginebra," said Sta. Lucia coach Alfrancis Chua, whose Realtors lost to the defending champion Tigers, 3-1, in the semifinals.

Paolo Mendoza and Kenneth Duremdes saw limited action for the Realtors due to injuries.

Scores:

STA. LUCIA 100—Espino 28, Adriano 23, Santos 14, Aquino 10, Mendoza 9, Francisco 8, Victolero 4, Duremdes 3, Ong 1, Webb 0.

GINEBRA 92—Caguioa 27, Menk 24, Adducul 9, Ballesteros 9, Salvacion 8, David 7, Dimaunahan 3, Tolomia 3, Calpito 2, Sanders 0.

Quarters: 26-21, 46-all, 76-61, 100-92.

RUDY Hatfield of Coca-Cola goes up for a rebound in last night's game against Talk N Text.

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Immonen nips Souquet; Reyes 3rd

By Dennis U. Eroa

FORMER World Pool champion Mika Immonen of Finland outdueled European nine-ball king Ralf Souquet of Germany, 13-12, in a game of changing fortunes last night to rule the On Cue 1st RP-Europe nine-ball championship at the Loop Entertainment Center inside the Don Eugenio Lopez Jr. building in Quezon City.

Ahead 12-11, Immonen, nicknamed the Iceman for his cool and calculating plays, missed the nine ball, giving the 34-year-old Souquet a chance for a come-from-behind victory.

Looking every inch a winner, Souquet, who booted out local hero Efren "Bata" Reyes in the semifinals last Saturday, sank three balls from the break and seemed to have the $15,000 paycheck in the bag when tragedy struck as he blew his shot at the No.4 ball.

Thankful for his second chance, Immomen cleaned up amid the thunderous applause of the crowd.

Immonen thus avenged his loss to Souquet in the semifinals of the BCA Open in Las Vegas early this year.

Souquet settled for the $10,000 purse in the five-day event organized by Puyat Spors and ABS-CBN.

Earlier, Reyes routed compatriot Warren Kiamco, 11-5, to salvage third place and win $5,000. Kiamco, who lost to Immomen in the semifinals, pocketed $3,000.

Reyes was simply unbeatable against Kiamco, racing to a 6-1 lead mainly because of a superior breaking game and flawless pocketing.

It was Reyes' second straight victory over Kiamco in a major tournament. The 48-year-old Reyes also dominated Kiamco, 11-2, in the finals of the Manila leg of the Asian nine-ball series held last May in Parañaque City.

Reyes admitted that his semifinal loss to Souquet was a big letdown for his fans.

"I knew that many were disappointed but anything can happen in a nine-ball competition. My opponent played very well," Reyes said.

Reyes actually beat Souquet in the eliminations but his deadly form eluded him in the semifinals of the five-day event which featured some of the world's best cue artists.

Billiards godfather Putch Puyat described the tournament as the "best" ever held in the country. He also repeated his prediction that the winner of the World Pool Championship slated on July 12 in Wales would come from this event.

"My fearless forecast, and that's 95 percent, the next world champion will come from this tournament," Puyat said.

REYES admits he let his fans down by losing to Souquet. EDGAR MONTANA

Tiger pulls away with 6-shot lead

TIGER Woods drops his club after hitting a poor tee shot on the 14th hole. AP

LEMONT, Illinois—Tiger Woods shot a 65 Saturday at the Western Open, setting a 54-hole tournament record with an 18-under 198.

His round broke by three strokes, the mark set by Sam Snead in 1949 at the Golf Club in St. Paul, Minnesota. If he keeps this up, he'll soon own the record book at the Western Open: He has already matched the single-round scoring mark, shooting a 63 on Thursday.

Woods also extended his lead to six shots—very bad news for his opponents. Of the other 30 tournaments he's led after three rounds, he's gone on to win 28 of them.

Robert Allenby, who won the tournament in 2000, and Cliff Kresge are tied for third at 204. Rich Beem matched Woods' 65 and is seven strokes back.

Mike Weir, defending champion Jerry Kelly and Glen Day are at 206.

"Obviously if Tiger keeps playing the way he is, no, there's no way," Beem said when asked if anyone could catch Woods. "Maybe somebody can shoot 63 or even 62 and maybe he'll shoot even par.

"He's obviously hitting the ball fantastic and obviously playing fantastic."

That he was. Woods was near-perfect through the front nine, shooting a 30 and making only one bogey. He hit six of seven fairways, and the one he missed didn't cost him at all. In the right rough off the tee on the par-5 No. 5, Woods hit a tremendous second shot that left him just 11 inches from the pin.

He rolled it in for an eagle, getting to 15 under.

After a "routine" par on the first hole, he put himself in position for birdie on all but two holes the rest of the front nine. He had 11 putts on the front nine, two-putting just twice. He had putts of 8 feet or less on all but three holes, and his longest was a 20-footer on the par-3 No. 6.

The ball slowed down the closer it got to the hole, and it looked as if it might stop inches short. But with fans yelling, "Get there!" and Woods pointing at the cup, the ball kept going, falling almost slow-motion into the hole.

A big grin crossed Woods' face.

He followed with another long birdie putt, this one from 12 feet. This time there was no question the ball was going in, and Woods' caddie, Steve Williams, turned and pumped his fist as it dropped into the cup. That put Woods' at 17 under, and suddenly, a round of 60 or—dare we say it—59 didn't seem out of reach.

In a showcase of just how superior his game was, though, Woods chipped on within 5 feet and then made the putt for a birdie, dropping to 18 under. *AP*

Brisk walk does it for centenarian

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—Centenarian Waldo McBurney made the 100-meter dash in a 39.97-second brisk walk at the World Masters Athletics Championships on Saturday, the oldest competitor at the games for seniors.

McBurney came in last but not least, not even breaking a sweat in the race at Puerto Rico's Roberto Clemente Sports Complex in San Juan's Carolina suburb.

The winner was 91-year-old Mahlo Friedrich of Germany, in 19.24 seconds.

A beekeeper from Quinter, Kansas, McBurney said he competes "to show people you can still perform at an old age."

Athletes from 79 countries are competing in the 15th championships, a 12-day series of track-and-field events that began Wednesday. *AP*

Brizuela tops AAI golf

FORMER Philippine junior golf team member Arnold Brizuela ruled the 2nd AAI Friendship golf tournament held at the sprawling Santa Elena Golf Club in Laguna recently.

Brizuela bested a record field of 91 with a gross score of 77 while Edna Gatmaitan of FGA Global Inc. won the ladies net championship with an 86.

Twelve other trophies were given out in three classes for both gross and net champions.

SPORTS noodle

Bong Barrameda VOL. I NO. 027

In the news

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other 'sports genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1 > 3 Pts.
☐ True / o False: As approved by President Macapagal-Arroyo, over 500 Filipino athletes will compete in the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games in December.

2 > 5 Pts.
Which African nation did France beat, 1-0 in extra time, to win the Confederations Cup football tournament in Paris?
- ☐ Cameroon
- ☐ Nigeria

3 > 7 Pts.
Which Filipino tallied 7 points to rule the Asian Zonal 3.2a chess championship in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam?
- ☐ Joey Antonio
- ☐ Mark Paragua
- ☐ Ronald Dableo

4 > 10 Pts.
For about how much did Manchester United sell soccer icon David Beckham to Real Madrid?
- ☐ $41 million
- ☐ $55 million
- ☐ $67 million

5 > 20 Pts.
What's the nickname of Hideki Matsui, the star Japanese slugger of the New York Yankees?
- ☐ 'Shogun'
- ☐ 'Godzilla'
- ☐ 'Banzai'
- ☐ 'Samurai'

6 > 25 Pts.
Tour de France favorite Lance Armstrong of the US overcame what illness to win the prestigious cycling race for the first time in 1999?
- ☐ Tuberculosis
- ☐ Hepatitis
- ☐ Gehrig's disease
- ☐ Testicular cancer

7 > 30 Pts.
At Wimbledon, Lleyton Hewitt of Australia became the first defending champion in the Open era to crash out of the opening round when he lost (6-1, 6-7, 3-6, 4-6) to Croatian qualifier Ivo Karlovic, the tallest player in tournament history. How tall?

ANSWERS/ A31

'Bata' must rise again

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THE CURRENT-DAY Pinoy sports fan knows no greater symbol of victory than Efren "Bata" Reyes.

His face, not to mention his cute, candy-sweet, toothless smile, has been synonymous to winning that a good news on Bata's international exploits could readily make our day, or our whole week for that matter.

Bata's big wins are always an occasion for celebration, a ready excuse for the *barkada* to fetch a drink on credit at the corner store and water up their combined joys, either with beer, gin or bogus brandy, in tribute to the genius of their idol.

The closest we could liken these joyous sidestreet events were to the eruptions of national pride and passion during the reign of Flash Elorde as world junior lightweight boxing king.

Elorde's pull and impact on national pride were so tremendous that his countrymen would rise or fall, jump up or cry, depending on how he performed and carried the national flag on the world stage.

***

Naturally, it was a major concern when news came about that European pool invaders would be in town to test the mettle of Bata and Co.

How that expected weekend sports fiesta got marred by the failure of Bata or anyone in his gang to figure in the final of the On Cue 1st RP-Europe nine-ball championship clearly demonstrated that the proud Pinoy takes his billiards very, very seriously.

No, there was no open weeping, but a group of former seminarians did not send out for drinks when they met the other day somewhere in New Manila.

Instead, there were hidden groans and visible grimaces as these eager ex-future friars sipped tepid tea and did a post mortem of Bata & Co. in the RP vs Europe challenge organized by ABS-CBN and Puyat Sports.

The meeting, needless to say, turned into an unscheduled pause for mourning.

Of course, the groan was hardest over the failure of a single Pinoy star to figure in the final of the much-ballyhooed main event.

***

No need anymore to check how viewership had drastically dipped with yesterday's All-Europe final between Mika Immonen and Ralph Souquet.

Truth is that grieving could last only up to July 12, when Bata Reyes leads a tested gang of Filipino cue artists in the Cardiff, Wales World Pool Championship.

You see, it has been part of Bata's lovable ways to underplay his genius and skills.

When he wins and hits the jackpot, all he would say is that the opposition had not been up to par. (*"Masama ang itinira ng kalaban, medyo suwerte naman ako."*)

***

Well, Django Bustamante, who came very, very close to bagging the world pool crown in Cardiff the last time came home a hero just the same.

All because of the unforgettable fact that he waged battle all the way to the finals even as his youngest child was fighting for her life in a hospital bed. The poor girl did succumb as Django inched ahead and eventually figured in that memorable final against Earl Strickland.

Django missed the crown on a hard break after the cue ball, mesmerized, stalled then rolled into the right corner pocket for a scratch.

Will it be Django or Bata who would go big in Cardiff this year?

It's too early to tell.

But the big call of the day is for any of the Pinoy cue artists to move all the way to the final in Cardiff, if only to justify the inevitable period when the RP Billiards Republic willingly stays up very late to follow the fortunes of our national bets in the world championship.

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Generation UAAP

Behold our ultimate guide to college basketball's showcase

Guest editor **Ruel S. De Vera**

AT LONG last, the waiting is over. Once again, the banners will unfurl, the shouts will rise and the ball will go up. Last year, more people watched college hoops than ever before. In last year's University Athletics Association of the Philippines men's basketball tourney, the Ateneo Blue Eagles ended a 14-year title quest by stopping the De La Salle Green Archers in a breathtaking Finals that made the front page. An entirely new generation of fans awoke to the purity and intensity of the college game. They will find themselves enthralled by the waves of azure, green, crimson and gold when the UAAP's Season 66 begins on July 12 at the Araneta Coliseum. As pulses race, school colors are donned and the drums sound once more. Now, the INQUIRER provides team-by-team previews plus complete lineups and first-round schedules to college hoops' masterpiece. Turn the page to find out who's in the zone and who's way out. Prepare yourself.

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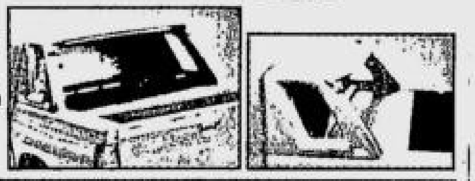

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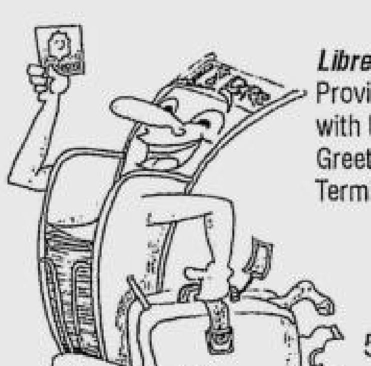

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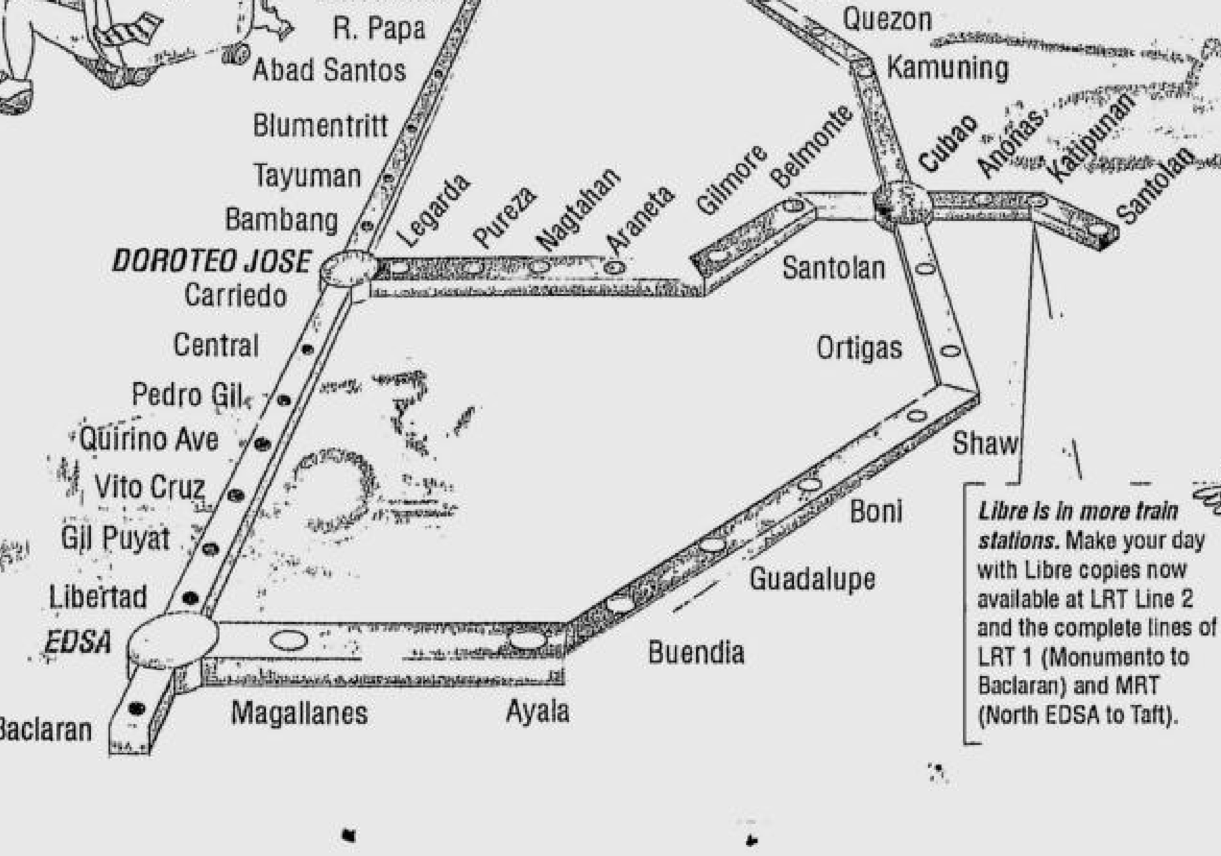

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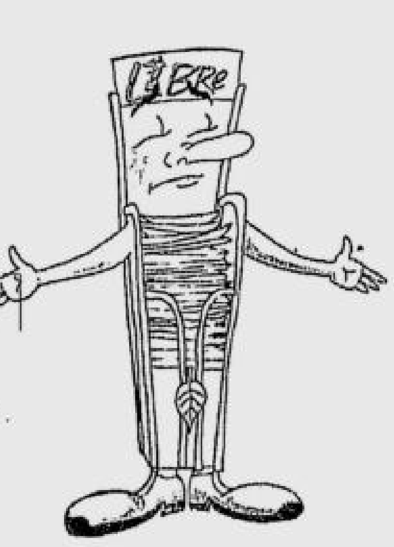

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Red-hot Warriors go for the ring

University of the East

Last year: 10-4, lost to ADMU in Final Four
Head coach: David "Boyzie" Zamar

Jhayson A. Alminario	C
Paul Anthony D. Artadi	G
Arnold G. Booker	G
Philip B. Butel	C
Rommel Niro T. Canaleta	F
Jay Arr V. Estrada	F
Dean Paulo V. Hubalde	G
Roberts Raymond T. Labagala	G
Rolly Joey C. Masbang	F
Paulo Roman C. Napo	C
Ollan Olivar M. Omiping	G
Adrian Chris B. Ronquillo	G
Eric C. Suguitan	C
Nicasio D. Tamayo	F
Charles G. Tan	G/F
James Carlos A. Yap	G

− F Ronald Tubid
+ Adrian Ronquillo; rookies Eric Suguitan, Paolo Napo and Jun Tamayo

By Dennis U. Eroa

THE UNIVERSITY of the East didn't really lay a big, flat egg last year. Fact was, no challenges were left unmet by the merciless Red Warriors. In show of its resiliency, UE won a lot of major collegiate titles namely the Challenge to Champions, Bantay Bata, the National PRISAA, and lost by a whisker to St. Francis of Assisi in the National Intercollegiate held in Naga City.

"It wasn't a bad year," said coach Boyzie Zamar, a member of the UE team which won back-to-back titles in 1984 and 1985, the last time the Recto boys ruled the UAAP hoopdom with an iron hand. Zamar, however, knows a simple truth.

By falling short in Final Four, UE's 2002 season was lacking in electricity. It remains empty and the Red Warriors will always be remembered for falling short when it counted most. George Chia's shot of a lifetime, according to Zamar, is a dagger still embedded in the Warriors' hearts. Chia is now toiling with Coca-Cola in the pros, but Zamar and his crusading Warriors will be more than happy to exact revenge by beating anybody who crosses their path going to this year's Final Four.

"Chia's shot ruined our season. Twice to beat and twice beaten," Zamar said as UE lost to Ateneo. UE's trip to oblivion started with an ill-timed Paul Artadi drive but Zamar and the rest of the gang have already proven that they are made of sterner stuff with their conquests after the UAAP season.

Last year, UE was a delight to watch with its boundless energy, leaving their foes gasping for breath. Zamar is looking forward to this year's season but said the Warriors must learn from their sad experiences in the past. "We must go back to the basics," Zamar said.

Under Zamar, UE has blossomed into a well-disciplined squad, ready to exploit an opponent's mistake. But UE must also be able to find consistency as proven by its up and down games which proved to be its waterloo. "We need to have mental toughness because the UAAP is a crowning glory for the team," Zamar said. Ronald Tubid has brought his high-flying acts to Shell in the pros and Zamar said somebody must fill in the void.

Artadi, who even left his PBL team Welcoat in mid-season to concentrate on UE, will make one last stab at glory as playmaker. James Yap, KG Canaleta, Jay Arr Estrada, Rolly Masbang, Arnold Booker, Ollan Omiping remain deadly.

Philip Butel, Charles Tan and Jhayson Alminario can provide quality minutes. Adrian Ronquillo, an outside threat, also returned after one year of absence and should aid Artadi in fueling the Warriors' fastbreaking plays. Zamar also made special mention of Cebuano Robert Labagala, a sophomore point guard, who mostly rode the bench last year. "Wait for him, he's going to contribute greatly to our course," said Zamar. Three tall rookies—6'9" Eric Suguitan, 6'7" Paolo Napo and 6'5" Jun Tamayo-will also don the Warriors' colors, making UE the UAAP's tallest team.

While the 6'3" Yap remains the focal point of UE's offense, Zamar knows that teamwork wins games. "James cannot win it alone for us. Paul, I'm sure, is going to give it his best try. He wants to finish his collegiate career with a UAAP championship ring," stressed Zamar.

The 37-year-old Zamar ranked Ateneo as top favorite, with La Salle, owing to its championship record, occupying the second spot. Far Eastern University, boosted by its PBL experience, is ranked third.

ARTADI

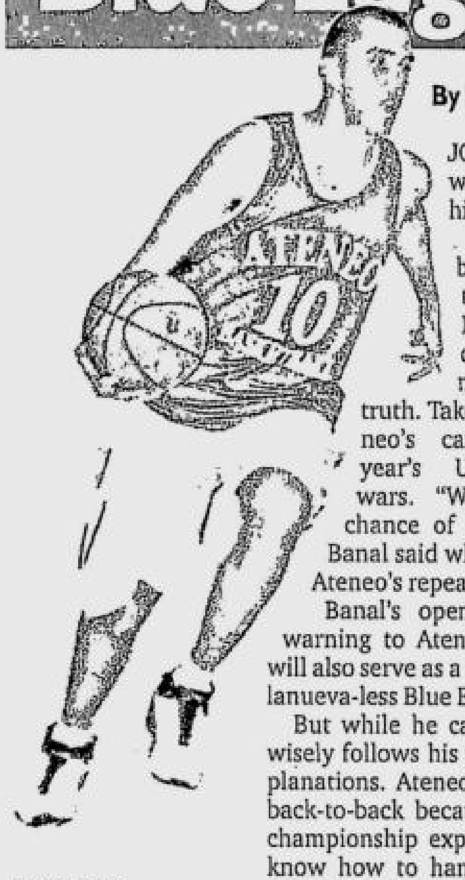
Blue Eagles reload to defend title

Ateneo de Manila University

Last year: 9-5, won over DLSU in Finals
Head coach: Joel Banal

Richard D. Alvarez	F
Claiford A. Arao	F
Ramon Paolo V. Bugia	C/F
Christian Joy D. del Rosario	G
Marc Anthony C. Escalona	G
Freddie Zachary O. Estoesta	F
Larry Alexander N. Fonacier	G/F
Wesley O. Gonzales	F
John Christopher A. Intal	F
Douglas R. Kramer	F
Benedicto L. Membrere III	G
Martin E. O. Quimson Jr.	F
Lewis Alfred V. Tenorio	G
Christopher J. A. Tiu	G
Jonathan Rogel N. Uichico	F
Eric Edison W. Yao	F

-: MVP Enrico Villanueva, G Gec Chia, G Chris Quimpo, G Andrew Cruz, F/C Sonny Tadeo, G Marco Benitez, F Hernando Elmido, C Dom Banal
+: C Paolo Bugia, G Magnum Membrere, F Eric Yao; rookies Claiford Arao, Chris Tiu, Johann Uichico, Zach Estoesta



ALVAREZ

By Dennis U. Eroa

JOEL Banal isn't a master when it comes to the art of hiding.

The Ateneo coach, who became the toast of the town after ending the Blue Eagles 13-year UAAP title drought, likes to tell nothing but the truth. Take for example Ateneo's campaign in this year's UAAP basketball wars. "We have a good chance of keeping the title," Banal said when asked to comment on Ateneo's repeat bid this year.

Banal's openness should serve as a warning to Ateneo's foes. Undoubtedly, it will also serve as a challenge to the Enrico Villanueva-less Blue Eagles.

But while he calls it as he sees it, Banal wisely follows his prediction with logical explanations. Ateneo, says Banal, can make it back-to-back because it already boasts of a championship experience. "My players now know how to handle pressure. Now, it becomes a matter of playing anew under the Ateneo system," said Banal.

With the absence of the power-playing Villanueva, who is now with Red Bull, Banal gives Ateneo's formula for success. "Before, Enrico's our number one option. Now our game plan is to move, move, move the ball," Banal said.

Also gone from last year's title squad are veterans Gec Chia, Andrew Cruz, Sonny Tadeo, Chris Quimpo and Marco Benitez. With Magnum Membrere back to its fold after missing last year's action due to a knee injury along with deadshots Larry Fonacier, Wesley Gonzales and LA Tenorio, expect the Eagles to pound their foes with their outside shooting.

Banal described the Ateneo's team as having a smaller starting unit, but a bigger backup with the presence of rookies Claiford Arao (6'5"), and Johann Uichico (6'4"). Also making the roster are Cebuano Zach Estoesta and shooter Chris Tiu, a star out of Xavier School.

Focus will be on two-time UAAP MVP Rich Alvarez, the rebounding demon who will team up with returnee Paolo Bugia to patrol the shaded lane. Badjie del Rosario, Macky Escalona, Doug Kramer and Eric Yao will also play big roles for the Eagles. Tenorio, Fonacier, Gonzales, Alvarez and Bugia should start for Ateneo. This starting unit should be the envy of many and the question now is how will the bench respond.

Owing to his stint with Hapee in the PBL, Alvarez, who was voted by sportswriters as co-finals MVP with Peter Simon, said that he needs a lot of fine-tuning with his Ateneo teammates. This goes the same with the heady Gonzales, fleet Tenorio and well-rounded Fonacier, a former Ateneo high school star.

Without thinking twice, Banal picked La Salle as the top-ranked team this year.

When told that the Archers are rookie-laden and untested, Banal couldn't care less.

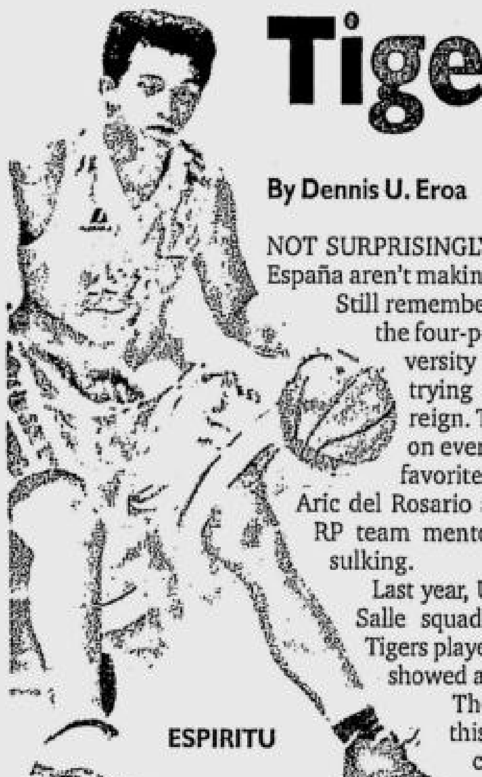
"La Salle's winning tradition is very important. Don't forget that the Archers won four straight titles from 1998 to 2001. That was quite an achievement," Banal said.

Banal also noted that the good showings made by Far Eastern University in the recent PBL Unity Cup should make the Tamaraws another favorite team, same with the University of the East, the team Ateneo beat in last year's Final Four.

While confirming that he's leaving Talk N' Text temporarily to concentrate on his coaching chores with the Ateneo, Banal said that teams like Adamson and NU have played impressively during the pre-season. "I am worried with FEU's form," said Banal, while watching the FEU (Viva)-Hapee best-of-five title series at the Pasig Sports Center. Rightly so. Banal was simply talking about his experience. Last year, the Blue Eagles also sizzled in the PBL before winning the UAAP title.

Now he and his wards just have to do it all over again.

Tigers search for identity



ESPIRITU

By Dennis U. Eroa

NOT SURPRISINGLY, the Growling Tigers of España aren't making loud noises nowadays.

Still remembered as the team that won the four-peat from 1993 to '97, University of Santo Tomas is now trying to rebuild its shattered reign. This year, the Tigers aren't on everybody's list of pre-season favorites. But multi-titled mentor Aric del Rosario and his assistant, former RP team mentor Dong Vergeire, aren't sulking.

Last year, UST lost to a dominant La Salle squad in the Final Four. The Tigers played with their usual fire, but showed a lack of staying power.

The challenges they face this season will be manifold, considering the loss of their top gun, acrobatic swingman Cyrus Baguio. Also gone is bull-strong forward Niño Gelig.

UST's main drawback is its lack of big men. Save for veteran Alwin Espiritu who stands 6'5", Del Rosario will have to rotate players, who are smaller and untested compared to their rivals. Banger Warren de Guzman, 6'3" Iago Raterta and 6'5" rookie Jun Dizon will have to work double overtime in order that the Tigers will not get clobbered on and off the boards. It will be up to Espiritu, the Tigers' man in the middle, to lead the play in the paint.

Del Rosario said his shooters need to wax hot all game long in order to give UST a chance of beating taller and heftier foes. "It will also not hurt if we can play very good defense and our running game will click," Del Rosario noted.

Aside from Espiritu and De Guzman, the other starters are point guard Jino Manansala, Don Villamin and Jemal Vizcarra. The other veterans are Derick Hubalde, Edsel del Rosario, Christian Luanzon, Michael Sumalinog and Danilo Pribhdas. Jun Cortez, a high-scoring recruit from the UST high school squad, will boost the Tigers' backcourt. Other newcomers are Alan Evangelista, Ruel Asay and Anthony Espiritu.

Just like in the past, UST isn't going to go down without a fight. Don't be surprised either if the Tigers make a big show this year.

"I cannot tell our chances, but if things go right for us we can be in the semifinals," said Del Rosario.

Vergeire echoes Del Rosario's cautious stand. "Considering the rosters of the other competing teams, it will be very tough for us. But we're preparing hard and will give it our best try," Vergeire said. A welcome roar may not be that long in coming.

University of Santo Tomas

Last year: 8-6, lost to DLSU in Final Four
Head coach: Januario "Aric" del Rosario

Ruel Asay	G
Jose Cortez Jr.	G
Rene L. de Guzman	F
Edsel Ronald P. del Rosario	G
Jun Dizon	F
Alwin C. Espiritu	C
Anthony C. Espiritu	F
Allan E. Evangelista	F
Frederic D. Hubalde	G
Christian G. Luanzon	G
Jinino Y. Manansala	G
Danilo Pribhdas	G/F
Iago Jaime L. Raterta	F
Michael Anthony D. Sumalinog	G
Don Rez Villamin	G
Jemal B. Vizcarra	G

-: Forwards Cyrus Baguio and Niño Gelig
+: Rookies Roel Asay, Jun Cortez, Anthony Espiritu and Allan Evangelista

Maroons start life without Bravo

University of the Philippines

Last year: 5-9, missed Final Four
Head Coach: Joselito "Lito" Vergara

Jayfelson B. Agbayani	F
Artemio Ferdina C. Almeda	G
Robson L. Bornancin	F
Ira Gilberto E. Buyco	F/C
Roberto Emmanuel A. Carlos	F/G
Josant M. Cervantes	F
Marvin L. Cruz	G
Nestor B. David Jr.	F/C
Victor Mel L. Epres	F
Jose Maria L.Ferrer	G
Jireh Ralph A. Ibañes	F
Jacob D. Manlapaz	F
John David A. Penson	G
JayR C. Reyes	F/C
Kenneth G. Robin	C
Lino R. Tabique Jr.	F

-:Michael Bravo, Xavier Nunag, Rodel Celo, Vito Arnaiz and Abraham Santos; head coach Allan Gregorio
+: Robson Bornancin, Kenneth Robin; Marvin Cruz, Jay Agbayani, Jacob Manlapaz; head coach Lito Vergara

By Lorenzo Z. Manguiat

WHEN a team loses its leading scorer during the previous three seasons, things are bound to get worse. However, newly appointed University of the Philippines head coach Lito Vergara is optimistic that the departure of Michael Bravo would eventually benefit the Fighting Maroons in the long term. Call it addition by subtraction.

"Last year, the other players tended to rely too much on Mike (Bravo). There was no more teamwork especially in the endgame. No one wanted to take the shot. They'd rather look for Mike because they thought that he could win the game by himself, but he couldn't," Vergara admitted.

"It's a good thing right now that we don't have any superstars so this year I'm quite confident that we might play as a team," noted Vergara, who takes over coaching duties from Allan Gregorio.

Despite the positive outlook, Vergara and the Maroons have their work cut out for them. UP finished last campaign with a disappointing 5-9 record and failed to reach the Final Four for the fifth straight year. State U's only seniors basketball crown came in 1986.

Vergara, who piloted UPIS to the UAAP juniors' title last season, believes that a change in the Maroons' fortunes should first begin with a change in attitude. "I want to instill individual and team discipline in them," remarked Vergara.

Among the players, focus will mainly be on second year center JayR Reyes. Highly touted coming out of high school, the 6'7" Reyes never quite lived up to lofty expectations as he admittedly had trouble adjusting to the physical nature of the college game. While Vergara speaks proudly of the tremendous strides Reyes has made in the classroom, he hopes that the former NCAA juniors MVP will carry over the same marked improvement in the hard court.

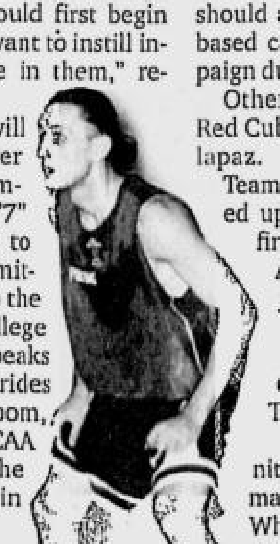
Forwards Josant Cervantes and Jireh Ibañes will also be around to help out with frontcourt duties, especially since the Maroons lost big men Vito Arnaiz, Rodel Celo and Abby Santos. The return of Brazilian forward Robson Bornancin and center Kenneth Robin after a year's absence should also serve as a boost to the Diliman-based cagers. The two missed the last campaign due to academic reasons.

Other key additions are former San Beda Red Cub Jay Agbayani and UPIS Jacob Manlapaz.

Team captain Toti Almeda will be counted upon to provide more offensive firepower this time around.

Almeda will likely be joined in the starting backcourt by either rookie Marvin Cruz or sophomore Jon Tabique.

One player definitely does not make a team. Whether they like it or not, the UP Fighting Maroons will be hard-pressed to prove it this year.



BORNANCIN

How we came up with this

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the best possible seeding, the INQUIRER pol
rank the teams, except for their own team
and 7 the lowest. An assistant coach fron
save for one team which didn't have an a
aged rankings, we produced our pre-sea
Warriors. "They have an intact lineup," a
as the favorite. In fact, UE was ranked as t
four were clear from the answers, but the
gether, save for the NU Bulldogs, who wer
asked. "Aside from the top three, all the
seeds," one head coach

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FEU's point of contention

Far Eastern University

Last year: 6-8, missed Final Four
Head Coach: Enrico "Koy" Banal

Francis P. Barcellano	C
Cesar R. Catli Jr.	F
Jeffrei Allan D. Chan	G
Nick Jerome Q. Gadiane	G
Eleazar Q. Gutierrez	G
Mark Gracer P. Isip	F
Francis Gerard Q. Jones	C
Dennis E. Miranda	G
James Scott Q. Razon	C
Ryan Joseph R. Rizada	G
Cyril S. Santiago	F
Arwind A. Santos	F
Robert M. Sierra	G
Rhagnee S. Sinco	G
Don A. Yabut	C
James Robinson V. Zablan	G

+/-: No significant changes save for nucleus playing together in PBL as Viva Mineral Water Force

By Lorenzo Z. Manguiat

NO one can argue that history imparts us with valuable lessons. Events are most often remembered when we associate them with heroic feats of individuals during crucial moments.

Following such logic, we are often reminded that Far Eastern University's three UAAP basketball championships during the 1990s were captured in large part due to the leadership and court savvy of point guards Johnny Abarrientos and Anastacio "Robin" Mendoza. Abarrientos was the spark plug in the Tamaraws' title squads in 1991 and 1992 while Mendoza was the key to capturing the crown in 1997.

Fast forward to the present and FEU Coach Koy Banal also preaches about the value of a back court general to any team. "We're trying to create a system where everybody must play the point, not just by bringing down the ball, but by having the ability to connect with your teammates, verbally, through eye contact or by reading situations," Banal reveals. "But I will not discount the fact that a legitimate point guard will give you wins," he quickly adds.

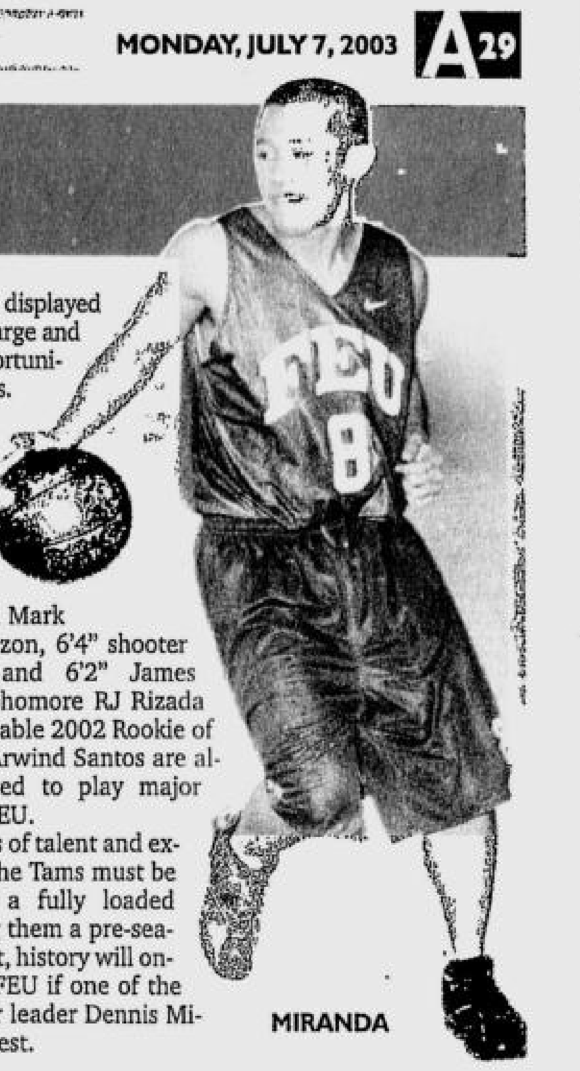
The hobbits among us need not crane our necks at .the towering sequoias of FEU, which boasts of perhaps the tallest lineup in the UAAP with an average height of 6'3", in order to identify this season's possible version of Abarrientos or Mendoza. We merely have to look at 5'11" Dennis Miranda to find out who carries the responsibility of creating order among Tamaraws on the floor this campaign.

Banal converted Miranda from shooting to point guard when he coached Miranda at the Philippine School of Business Administration. Miranda transferred to the FEU to join his mentor, eventually suiting up in 2001. "Miranda had a wonderful season in the PBL, especially with his confidence and outside shooting. He is showing signs that he will become a good point guard this year in the UAAP," Banal noted.

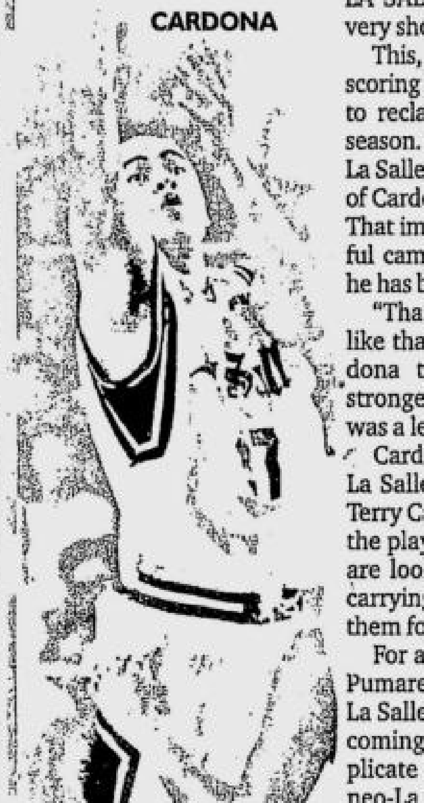
Indeed, if Miranda's impressive recent showing in the last PBL Unity Cup is indication, then the Tamaraws should go far this campaign. Earning Second Mythical Team honors in the Unity Cup, Miranda was one of the primary reasons why Viva Mineral Water was a mere Gerard Jones basket away from winning the crown as he displayed the ability to take charge and create scoring opportunities for his teammates.

Seven other Tamaraws donned the Viva jersey, namely: Jones, shooting guard Rhagnee Sinco, 6'7" Don Yabut, 6'4" forward Mark Isip, 6'6" James Razon, 6'4" shooter Cesar Catli and 6'2" James Zablan. Sophomore RJ Rizada and formidable 2002 Rookie of the Year Arwind Santos are also expected to play major roles for FEU.

In terms of talent and experience, the Tams must be considered a fully loaded team, making them a pre-season title favorite. Yet, history will only repeat itself for FEU if one of the shortest Tams, floor leader Dennis Miranda, plays the tallest.


MIRANDA

New-look Archers remain dangerous


CARDONA

By Dennis U. Eroa

LA SALLE's Mac "The Knife" Cardona has a very short memory.

This, of course, should serve the six-foot scoring machine well as the Green Archers try to reclaim the UAAP basketball diadem this season. Still fresh from the minds not only of La Salle but Ateneo fans as well was the picture of Cardona getting blocked by Larry Fonacier. That image mirrored La Salle's unsuccessful campaign for the five-peat. Fact is, he has become a better man.

"That's part of the ballgame. Life is like that. Win some, lose some," Cardona told the INQUIRER. "I became stronger because of that experience. It was a lesson for me."

Cardona's attitude best describes the whole La Salle team this year. From team manager Terry Capistrano and coach Franz Pumaren to the players down to the ballboys, the Archers are looking forward to this year's campaign carrying the same fighting heart that gave them four straight titles from 1998 to 2001.

For a coach facing an enormous challenge, Pumaren looks unbothered. And to think that La Salle is fielding a rookie-laden squad in the coming season, which is hard-pressed to duplicate the 2002 epic highlighted by the Ateneo-La Salle finals. "This isn't going to be easy with all the newcomers," said Pumaren. "Let's just see what will happen."

Now without the imposing presence of Mike Cortez, the defense of Adonis Sta. Maria and the sporadic brilliance of Willy Wilson, La Salle needs to dig deeper into its remaining veterans and seven new recruits.

"My rookies are hungry to prove that they belong in the UAAP," Pumaren said.

Pumaren easily picks Ateneo, Far Eastern University and University of the East as the top three teams, respectively. La Salle, Univ. of Santo Tomas, National University and Adamson are in the middle of the field. To regain the title, Pumaren must negotiate a virtual minefield with all his rookies. "There's life after losing to Ateneo," Pumaren said.

The Archers, carrying the banner of ICTSI, saw action in the PBL. La Salle also spent the pre-season competing in the Fr. Martin's Cup and the Grudge Games.

Capistrano and deputy manager Manny Salgado also downplayed the Archers' title bid this year. "We'll be aiming for the Final Four and then take it from there," said Capistrano.

At first glance, La Salle seems lacking in firepower. BJ Manalo is lost for the season due to injury. Cholo Villanueva, Mika Vainio and Christian Cabatu will also not don La Salle's colors this year, putting more pressure on Pumaren's rotation.

Cardona, with his unorthodox hook shots and gutsy drives to the basket, is going to be a marked man and teammates Joseph Yeo must remain consistent on the offensive end to lift La Salle in crunchtime.

Oliver Cua, a recruit from the Letran Squires, and Jerwin Gaco, a banger from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, must mature early in order to give La Salle the offensive boost.

With skipper Manny Ramos, Carlo Sharma, Gaco and Michael Gavino patrolling the middle, the Archers should not have a problem grabbing the rebounds. But the absence of Cortez in the back court should be a cause for concern. Sophomore Tyrone Tang and rookies Allen Gatchalian, Ryan Arana and Paul Chua will tend the back court. Joseph Casio can also hit the outside shots, while Peter Walsham and Mark Benitez will be a big help in collaring the boards.

Assistant mentor Gie Abanilla said he is impressed with Casio, a pure shooter, who is being groomed to fill the shoes of Ren Ren Ritualo. "He can create things and can read the defense very well. For a rookie, Casio has the poise," Abanilla said. Still, focus will be on how Cardona will play this year. "I can't do it alone, but I'm willing to do it," said Cardona. That's welcome news for La Salle.

De La Salle University

Last year: 13-1, lost to Ateneo in Finals
Head Coach: Franz Pumaren

Jose Redempto L. Aquino	G/F
Ryan T. Arana	G
Mark Lester S. Benitez	C/ F
Santiago S. Cabatu Jr.	F
Mark Reynan M. Cardona	G
Paul T. Chua	G
Oliver A. Cua	G
Jerwin M. Gaco	F
Timoteo D. Gatchalian III	G
Michael Oliver A. Gavino	C
Manuel R. Ramos	C
Ram Carlo T. Sharma	C
Tyrone Conrad U. Tang	G
Arthur Peter S. Walsham	F
Joseph Henry L. Yeo	G

-: Guard Mike Cortez, Forward Willy Wilson, Center Adonis Sta. Maria, Forward Mika Vainio, Guard BJ Manalo, Forward Chris Cabatu, Guard Cholo Villanueva
+: Rookies Ryan Arana, Mark Benitez, Jerwin Gaco, Oliver Cua, Allen Gatchalian, Paul Chua and Peter Walsham.

Falcons find center of gravity

ABADIA

By Lorenzo Z. Manguiat

AS DELECTABLE as a doughnut is to munch on, the use of such a snack in the basketball vernacular to describe a team would certainly be unflattering.

The lack of a bulky and effective center to plug a gaping hole in the middle has plagued the Adamson Falcons during the past seasons.

Last year, the Falcons had to make do with the slender duo of Melvin Mamaclay and Edilberto Mangulabnan to man the post. With the graduation of Mamaclay and Mangulabnan, Coach Luigi Trillo addressed the situation by picking up a pair of beefy pivot men.

"This year we've got two big men in Mark Kong and Kenneth Bono, so I'm very excited," exclaimed Trillo. While both Kong and Bono are possibly the biggest in the batch of new centers in the league, they couldn't have been any different in more ways than one.

The 6'7" Kong is a basketball vagabond. Already a man mountain playing for UST High, Kong played for La Salle. The former RP Youth member then transferred to Letran, where he unfortunately never played for the Knights in the NCAA. After serving out his residency last year, Kong finally gets to suit up for the Falcons in his last season of eligibility.

Meanwhile, the half-German Bono is a true freshman gifted with a growth spurt during his high school days in Iloilo. "Kenneth was 6' 1" when he was in second year high school. In two years he gained 5 inches. The important thing is how to handle him and I'm finding out more about him everyday," Trillo revealed.

The addition of Kong and Bono undoubtedly gives the Falcons extra help and relieves the pressure on last year's team top scorer Mark Abadia, shooter Patrick Tiongco and point guard Ramil Tagupa.

"It's easy to clamp down on your top scorers if the other players are on the wings and you don't have a post player," Trillo pointed out. "Teams can't be overconfident when they face us now, we just got bigger," warned Tagupa, this year's team captain.

While the Falcons may have found a solution to their front court problems, they still have to learn how to win during the latter stages of the tournament.

After two winless seasons, Adamson somewhat found itself in unfamiliar territory after sporting a 3-4 record after the first round of the eliminations. Alas, the Falcons' Final Four aspirations were quickly dashed as they lost all assignments in the second round.

Thus, other players like Chad Alonzo, Jeff Tajonera, Jojo Hate, Reinell Catabay and Kim Gandarosa will also have to step up if Adamson is to increase its win total from last season. If not, the rest of the league will surely devour the Falcons just like a tasty treat.

Adamson University

Last year: 3-11, missed Final Four
Head coach: Luigi Trillo

Mark Anthony G. Abadia	F
Richard H. Alonzo	F
Karl Kenneth O. Bono	C/F
Patrick Jan M. Cabahug	G
Roel A. Capati	G/F
Reinell A. Catabay	F
El Abdul Hakim L. Gandarosa	G
Jose Joel P. Hate	F
Roel T. Hugnatan	F
Mark Joseph E. Kong	C
Gerald C. A. Layug	F
Marvin R. Poloyapoy	G
Ramil Rey M. Tagupa	G
Jeffrey E. Tajonera	G
Patrick B. Tiongco	G
Reymon C. Yao Cinco	G

-:Christian Ferrer, Melvin Mamaclay and Edilberto Mangulabnan.
+:Roel Hugnatan, Mark Kong and Kenneth Bono

A long season ahead for Bulldogs

By Jasmine W. Payo

AFTER a surprising Final Four stint a couple of years ago, the National University Bulldogs went back to ignominy in the previous UAAP season, finishing dead last.

Coach Rico Perez puts the experience into perspective. "Last year, it wasn't realistic for us to enter the Final Four after losing Gilbert Neo, Archen Cayabyab, Ariel de Castro and other graduates. A lot are gone from that Final Four cast," he says.

"All of us, including the players, we had to familiarize ourselves with each other. And we had to do that in a tournament, in a competitive situation, and we weren't prepared at that moment. The turn of events made it difficult to focus. But I'm not blaming anyone," says the former University of St. La Salle mentor.

This season, the Bulldogs are losing three more key players. Sweet shooting Jeff Napa, point guard Anthony Urbano and 6'4" inside threat Alfie Grijaldo have used up their playing years. But all is not lost for NU. Believe it or not, things may be looking up again for the Sampaloc-based team. Clinching the championship crown in the Fr. Martin's Cup highlighted their impressive pre-season run.

"Taking part in the Fr. Martin's Cup helped us because we reached the Finals. It gave us a lot of answers about ourselves ," he states.

Froilan Baguion, one of the UAAP's best point guards, will remain the focal point of NU's offense in his last season. The 5'8" playmaker was a Mythical Five member and received the Most Improved Player award in 2001. Included in the starting unit are Alex Miclat, Ronnie Cajayon and the team's tallest player, 6'5" center Rey Mendoza.

The Bulldogs' new recruits are power forward Marlon Mollena, point guard Cyrus Malagueño, and perimeter players Philip Moradas and Cris Catamora. Making up the rest of NU's lean roster are sophomores Jason Malcontento, Dave Catamora and Benjo Ballijon.

Aside from youth, height is also not in NU's favor with only half of the team standing above six feet. Perez though refuses to see it as a disadvantage. "Does size matter? It's how you do things." With their drawback in size, a run-and-gun play is thus expected from the Bulldogs. "We are a small team but we are making adjustments. We have to put extra effort on making defensive stops especially in the middle and securing rebounds," he says.

Right now, even Perez is making his own adjustment—he has yet to have a coaching staff. Assistant coach Chico Manabat has been attending to some personal matters. Perez remains unfazed. "It's just me right now and I have to adjust to the situation, adapt to it." As confident as he sounds, Perez isn't blindly optimistic.

"Like any team, we want to reach the Final Four. But we have to be aware of what is realistic and what is not. Right now, it's realistic for us to improve on our two-win record last year."

National University

Last year: 2-12, missed Final Four
Head coach: Rico Perez

Froilan Baguion	G
Behn Joseph L. Balljon	G
Ronnie Cajayon	G
Dave T. Catamora	F
Christopher T. Catamora	G
Cyrus Clay Malagueño	G
Jason M. Malcontento	G
Reynaldo D. Mendoza	C/F
Alexander N. Miclat	G
Marlon A. Mollena	F
Philip Ryan N. Moradas	G

-: Veterans Alfie Grijaldo, Jeff Napa and Anthony Urbano
+: Rookies Marlon Mollena, Cyrus Malagueño, Philip Moradas and Cris Catamora

BAGUION

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ERNIE U. SARMIENTO, AUGUST DELA CRUZ AND ROMY HOMILLADA
PAGE DESIGN BY MARLONE RUBIO

year's pre-season rankings

nkings really don't matter save as an irre-
ome. But we like it anyway. To come up with
ied all eight head coaches and asked them to
s, from 1-7 with 1 being the highest ranking
each squad was also asked to do the same,
tive assistant as of press time. With the aver-
on top seed: The University of the East Red
opposing head coach said when he cited UE
e top team by eight people surveyed. Our top
bottom four teams were bunched closely to-
e picked to finish last by most of the coaches
remaining teams are strong fourth or fifth
said: "Anyone can qualify."

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Serena makes it two in row

Downs injured Venus for 6th 'slam' crown

LONDON—Serena Williams' 13th encounter with her elder sister Venus proved to be the most painful one of all as she landed her second straight Wimbledon singles title–and the fourth in a row for the family.

The 21-year-old's 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 win in a 2 hour 3-minute center court tussle was paradoxically made all the harder by the fact that Venus, the 2000 and 2001 champion, was labouring under abdominal and hip injuries which became hard to bear by the final set.

The celebrations were therefore muted compared with last year, when "little" sister swatted "big" sister to deprive her of a Wimbledon hattrick in what on that occasion had been only the second final between siblings in the history of the event stretching back to Maud Watson's 1884 win over Lilian.

Serena said Venus would have landed the trophy against any other rival.

"She played really well in the first set–she had me on the defensive. Venus played really well, she ran down every ball," said Serena, who landed $896,000 for her win, with a further additional $70,000 added on by a women's sports equipment firm to make up the shortfall on the men's prize money.

Serena denied letting Venus off the hook in the opening set.

"I don't have problems playing someone who's injured. I just keep playing.

"I was just telling myself, if anything, 'this is Wimbledon. God knows if I would get this opportunity again.'"

"She never told me anything, she didn't talk to me about the injury at all."

Serena, whose win was watched courtside by the Williams clan with the exception of father Richard, said she was happy to have made up for allowing the French Open crown to slip from her head when she lost in the semifinal a month ago to Justin Henin-Hardenne, who went on to take the title.

"I'm definitely satisfied–but I should have won the French," she insisted.

Having surpassed former world No.1 Martina Hingis's haul of five Grand Slam titles–she has now won the US Open and Wimbledon twice each and the Australian and the French Open once–Serena said she could not rest on her laurels.

"I'm gonna go home, keep working hard because there's no time to rest," she said firmly, insisting if not Venus would otherwise only pass her. *AFP*

VENUS Williams, a bandage on her thigh, touches her injured leg. AP

SERENA Williams: Muted family celebration.

Woodbridge takes 8th doubles title

WIMBLEDON, England—Todd Woodbridge and Jonas Bjorkman repeated their Wimbledon men's doubles title on Saturday, defeating No. 1-seeded Mahesh Bhupathi and Max Mirnyi 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-3.

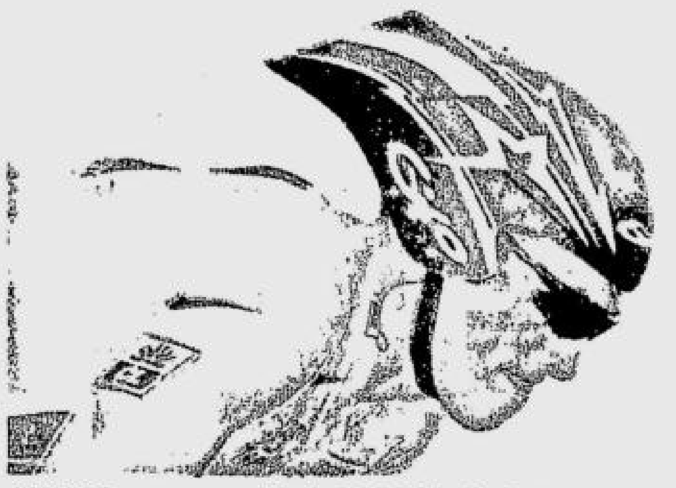
It was Woodbridge's eighth men's doubles title at Wimbledon, which ties a century-old record held by brothers Hugh and Reggie Doherty. They won eight between 1897 and 1905.

"I'm astonished to think that I could ever get close to that (Wimbledon) record," Woodbridge said. "It's beyond belief to think that at the beginning of my career I could do anything like that.

"I have no words to say. I can't believe that I could have achieved that. I needed a good partner to do it, but to have achieved it is beyond anything I thought possible."

Woodbridge won six Wimbledon titles with fellow Australian Mark Woodforde and now has two with Bjorkman. *AP*

TODD Woodbridge (left) and partner Jonas Bjorkman celebrate beating India's Mahesh Bhupathi and Max Mirnyi of Belarus in the hotly-contested men's doubles final. REUTERS



LANCE Armstrong could only finish 7th in the first stage. AP

Aussie sprinter rules prologue

PARIS—Australian Bradley McGee defied a late puncture and some of the world's fastest time trialists to win a 6.5 km prologue and claim the first yellow jersey of the 90th edition of the Tour de France Saturday.

Despite succumbing to a blown back tire in the final 500 meters of the race against the clock–later confirmed by his team boss Marc Madiot–the 27-year-old Aussie held on to finish in a winning time of 7:26.16.

David Millar, who rides for Cofidis, came second although the 26-year-old Scot, the prologue winner in 2000, will be rueing missing pulling on the centenary yellow jersey after his chain slipped off in the final 500 meters.

Millar finished only eight hundredths of a second behind McGee in 7:26.24, however his disaster effectively cost him the day's main prize.

Olympic road race champion Jan Ullrich (Bianchi), making his return to the race after injury and a number of unsavory off-bike events last year, came fourth behind early pace-setter Haimar Zubeldia of Spain.

Ullrich and the 26-year-old Euskaltel rider were credited with the same time, both finishing at 2 seconds behind McGee.

Four-time Tour winner Lance Armstrong, wearing the yellow jersey as he rode off the ramp last, placed seventh at just over seven seconds adrift.

McGee, the world individual pursuit champion in track, was lost for words but said he simply kept his wits about him.

"This is the biggest thing for me, to me it's even bigger than the Olympic Games."

"I didn't think I really had the legs to win this but I certainly had the head," he added before saying that his Franco-Australian team would be trying to defend the jersey in the days to come. *AFP*

Ortiz's bat booms as Red Sox flogs hapless Yankees

NEW YORK—David Ortiz homered, scored three runs and drove in three more to inspire the Boston Red Sox to a 10-2 rout of the New York Yankees in the American League Saturday.

The Red Sox, who crushed New York 10-3 Friday to start this four-game series, surged within two games of the first-place Yankees in the AL East.

Trot Nixon homered, scored three runs and drove in two more for Boston while Johnny Damon drove in three runs.

Ramiro Mendoza (2-3) pitched five shutout innings for the win, allowing six hits while striking out one and walking two.

Roger Clemens (8-6) was rocked for eight runs, seven earned, on six hits with three strikeouts and two walks in 5 1/3 innings.

Jason Giambi and Jorge Posada homered for the Yankees, who trailed 8-0 in the second. Hideki Matsui added three hits.

In Tampa Bay, Javier Valentin homered in the fifth inning to help the Devil Rays edge the Chicago White Sox 3-2.

Jorge Sosa (2-6) tossed 5 1/3 scoreless innings for his first win since April 19 and Lance Carter gave up two runs before closing the game with his 14th save of the season.

Magglio Ordonez homered and Frank Thomas had an RBI double to bring the White Sox within one run in the ninth. Esteban Loaiza (11-4) allowed three runs and eight hits in seven innings.

In Minnesota, Casey Blake smacked two homers, including a three-run drive in the ninth inning, and drove in seven runs to lead the Cleveland Indians to a 13-2 romp over the Twins.

Matt Lawton and Milton Bradley also homered for Cleveland.

Brian Anderson (6-6) won his third straight decision, giving up two runs and six hits in seven innings, while Joe Mays (8-6) allowed five runs and six hits in three innings.

Matt LeCroy and Corey Koskie, with his second homer in as many days, went deep for the Twins.

In Baltimore, Jeff Conine homered twice and drove in five runs as the Orioles pounded the Toronto Blue Jays 9-2. *Reuters*

BMW-WILLIAMS driver Juan Pablo Montoya is slow in adjusting to the handling of his new car. AFP

Car improvements set back Montoya's chances

MAGNY-COURS, France—Williams chief Patrick Head admitted on Saturday that the improvements made to Juan Pablo Montoya's car this season may have weakened the talented Colombian's performance.

Montoya clinched seven pole positions in 2002 but this season it is teammate Ralf Schumacher who is proving the master qualifier after grabbing pole here for Sunday's French Grand Prix–his third in the last four races.

Head reckons that the smoother running of the 2003 Williams has helped the German to pull himself into the title race–a fact illustrated last weekend when he won the European Grand Prix at the Nurburgring.

"There are different levels between the two of them," said Head after both his drivers wrapped up the front row for Sunday's race, the tenth round of the world championship.

"Ralf has come closer to the optimum of the car a bit quicker than Juan and though Juan made a big improvement today between the warm-up and qualifying, he was always a little bit behind."

However, Head believes he has an explanation for the difference in performance this year. "I don't think it has anything to do with the speed of the drivers as such but there is a difference in experience and application," said Head.

"It's always easy to be wise after the event to pick a perfect reason but if you watched Juan driving the high-speed oval circuits in the United States then you would have noticed his quick hand reaction and response to the wayward behavior of the back of the car. *AFP*

Movie stars vying in celeb badminton tilt

MOVIE and television personalities will display their stuff in the Corporate and Celebrity Cup Invitational badminton tournament slated July 14 to 20 at the Yellow Feather Badminton Center in Libis and at the SM Megamall Atrium.

Dennis Padilla, Mandy Ochoa, Patrick de la Rosa, Ricky Davao, Tonton Gutierrez, Monching De Leon, Glydel Mercado, Ruby Rodriguez, Mariz Rickets, Marjorie Barreto, Jamie Rivera and Jana Victoria have signed up in the Celebrity category of the tournament sponsored by Sportshouse set July 20 at the Megamall.

Also expected in the event that will have as its centerpiece a competition among 11 corporate teams are Randy Santiago, Diether Ocampo and Albert Martinez and Police Gen. Edgardo Aglipay, vice president of the Philippine Badminton Association.

Action will be in the men's and women's doubles and mixed doubles in the Celebrity side of the tournament which has Dunlop Slazenger Phils. as co-presentor and Quantum Global, Robson-Sportscraft, Ultramax, Lino's Food and Entertainment and Ratsky's as major sponsors.

The celebrities, according to Team Powerplay's Amparo "Weena" Lim, former commissioner of the Philippine Sports Commission, have been honing up at the Yellow Feather, venue of the preliminaries of the Corporate Cup.

Sportshouse, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, will raffle off more than P5 million in prizes—including a four-wheel, all-terrain motorbike, electric scooters and mountain bikes—during the July 20 awards night at Ratsky's on Tomas Morato.

66TH UAAP Basketball Season

First Round Schedule

GAMES SATURDAY/July 12 (*Araneta Coliseum*)
1:00 p.m.—Opening Ceremony
2:00 p.m.—UP vs NU (Srs)
4:00 p.m.—UST vs DLSU (Srs)
6:00 p.m.—UST vs DLSU (Jrs)

GAMES SUNDAY/July 13 (*Araneta Coliseum*)
11:00 a.m.—UP vs NU (Jrs)
2:00 p.m.—FEU vs Adamson (Srs)
4:00 p.m.—UE vs Ateneo (Srs)
6:00 p.m.—UE vs Ateneo (Jrs)

GAMES THURSDAY/July 17 (*Araneta Coliseum*)
11:00 a.m.—UST vs NU (Jrs)
1:30 p.m.—UST vs NU (Srs)
4:00 p.m. Ateneo vs FEU (Srs)

GAMES SATURDAY/July 19 (*Blue Eagle Gym*)
11:00 a.m.—Adamson vs UE (Jrs)
2:00 p.m.—Adamson vs Ue (Srs)
4:00 p.m.—DLSU vs UP (Srs)
6:00 p.m.—DLSZ vs UP (Jrs)

GAMES SUNDAY/July 20 (*Blue Eagle Gym*)
2:00 p.m.—FEU vs NU (Srs)
4:00 p.m.—UST vs Ateneo (Srs)
6:00 p.m.—UST vs Ateneo (Jrs)

GAMES THURSDAY/July 24 (*Araneta Coliseum*)
11:00 a.m.—UP vs Adamson (Jrs)
2:00 p.m.—UP vs Adamson (Srs)
4:00 p.m.—UE vs DLSU (Srs)
6:00 p.m.—UE vs DLSZ (Jrs)

GAMES SATURDAY/July 26 (*Blue Eagle Gym*)
11:00 a.m.—Ateneo vs NU (Jrs)
2:00 p.m.—Ateneo vs NU (Srs)
4:00 p.m.—UST vs FEU (Srs)

GAMES SUNDAY/July 27 (*Blue Eagle Gym*)
11:00 a.m.— UE vs UP (Jrs)
2:00 p.m.—UE vs UP (Srs)
4:00 p.m.—Adamson vs DLSU (Srs)
6:00 p.m.—Adamson vs DLSZ (Jrs)

GAMES THURSDAY/July 31 (*Araneta Coliseum*)
11:00 a.m.—Ateneo vs Adamson (Jrs)
1:30 p.m.—Ateneo vs Adamson (Srs)
4:00 p.m.—FEU vs DLSU (Srs)
6:00 p.m.—NU vs DLSZ (Jrs)

GAMES SATURDAY/Aug. 2 (*Blue Eagle Gym*)
2:00 p.m.—DLSU vs NU (Srs)
4:00 p.m.—UP vs Ateneo (Srs)

GAMES SUNDAY/ Aug. 3 (*Blue Eagle Gym*)
11:00 a.m.—Adamson vs UST (Jrs)
2:00 p.m.—Adamson vs UST (Srs)
4:00 p.m.—UE vs FEU (Srs)

GAMES THURSDAY/Aug. 7 (*Araneta Coliseum*)
11:00 a.m.—NU vs UE (Jrs)
1:30 p.m.—NU vs UE (Srs)
4:00 p.m.—UST vs UP (Srs)
6:00 p.m.—UST vs UP (Jrs)

GAMES SATURDAY/Aug. 9 (*Araneta Coliseum*)
2:00 p.m.—FEU vs UP (Srs)
4:00 p.m.—DLSU vs Ateneo (Srs)
6:00 p.m.—DLSZ vs Ateneo (Jrs)

GAMES SUNDAY/Aug. 10 (*Blue Eagle Gym*)
11:00 a.m.—Adamson vs NU (Jrs)
2:00 p.m.—Adamson vs NU (Srs)
4:00 p.m.—UE vs UST (Jrs)
6:00 p.m.—UE vs UST (Jrs)

GAME TUESDAY/Aug. 12 (*Blue Eagle Gym*)
4:00 p.m.—UP vs Ateneo (Jrs)

Schedules subject to change. Second round begins August 14.

Atrocious putting derails J-Ro's bid

ROSALES trying to regain his putting touch.

By Jong Arcano

PORTLAND, Oregon—When the putting statistics of the 58th US Women's Open came out before she teed off for the third round on Saturday (Sunday Manila time), Jenny Rosales was just utterly stunned—she was No. 1 with a 25-putt per round average.

From the driving range and all the way to the practice green, the members of the Rosales entourage made a big fuss of J-Ro's first ever taste of the lead in the putting department, all because of Friday's 24 putts that boosted her title drive.

The celebration proved short-lived however.

The hot putter turned cold as ice as Rosales saw her bid derailed by three three-putt bogeys on the front nine. She struggled home with a five-over-par 76 at the Witch Hollow course of the Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club and slipped to a share of 20th place with one round left.

After collecting six birdies in Round 1 and then four in the next round, Rosales didn't make any on a frustrating day when names on the leaderboard steadily changed early on until Hilary Lunke took charge with three consecutive birdies from the seventh then held on to snatch a one-stroke lead over fellow-American Angela Stanford.

Lunke avoided the big mistakes that brought down erstwhile leader Mhairi McKay of Scotland and even defending champion Juli Inkster to shoot a 68 for a 208 aggregate while Stanford, who clinched her first career victory in last week's ShopRite Classic, was next at 209 after a 69.

Annika Sorenstam made the battle for the Open more interesting by firing a day-best four-under 67 to join amateur Aree Song, Korean Jeong Jang and McKay in third place just three strokes behind at 211.

Aree, playing with Rosales, upstaged her flightmate with the kind of putting the Filipina was looking for all day with a 68 that put her on track towards becoming the first amateur winner of the Open since Catherine Lacoste in 1967.

The 5-foot Jang stood tall with her 69 and McKay turned in a 75.

Fil-Am Dorothy Delasinalso shot a 76 and remained mired in 51st place at 225.

Rosales' atrocious putting came at a when her ballstroking was at its best on a co where triple-bogeys were too common. Sh spent 38 strokes on the greens and naturally dropped to 21st from No. 1 in the putting category after hitting 15 greens in regulation.

Missing the greens on the 12th and 13th, Jenny couldn't save par from short range and likewise bungled her three makeable birdie putts in her last five holes.

Army entries rule Tuguegarao regional run

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Armymen Rodolfo Tacadino and Samuel Bernados made it a one-two finish for soldiers of the 5th Infantry Battalion in yesterday's 3rd regional elimination race of the 27th National MILO Marathon here.

Tacadino finished the 20-kilometer race that started and ended at the Cagayan Sports Complex in one hour, 16 minutes and eight seconds, beating Bernados by a full minute and six seconds.

"Bumawi lang ako dahil last year, hindi ako nakasali. Pero noong 2001, *ako ang* champion *dito,"* said Tacadino.

It was Tacadino's sixth regional title in the Milo Marathon.

Placing third and joining Tacadino and Bernados in the 42.195-kilometer National Finals on Oct. 19 in Metro Manila was 25-year-old Dominador Santilla Jr., who timed 1:17:35.

Maricar Gammad defended her title in the women's 20K event, also supported by Cebu Pacific, Bayview Park Hotel, Adidas, Department of Tourism, Powerbar, and My Globe.

Gammad clocked 1:47:41 followed by Nancy Tumpalan (1:57:07) and Anily Darilag (2:07:34).

Two other members of the Army also finished in the top three of the five-kilometer run.

Gilbert Pagalilanan ruled the category in 20 minutes flat, seven seconds ahead of last year's 20K winner Roggie Baccay and veteran runner Melchor Baculi.

Baccay and Baculi would have joined their five other Army pals in the 20K but opted to run in the shorter distance due to lack of training.

"Kulang kami sa ensayo. Akala kasi namin sa September *pa ang* Tuguegarao *leg,"* said Baccay, who clocked in yesterday at 20:07. The 17-year-old Pagalilanan also wanted to join the 20-k elimination race but was denied entry because he failed to meet the age limit of 18 years old.

Torion passes rehab test with flying colors

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE MISTAKE was costly, yes, and Jimwell Torion paid a heavy price for it.

But sports fans should be relieved to know that Torion, the peppery 5-foot-9 point guard of Batang Red Bull, could be playing again soon in the Philippine Basketball Association because his suspension from the league for testing positive for shabu during a random test last April 20 is about to be lifted. The 28-year-old Torion recently passed with flying colors a drug addiction and alcohol test at a private out-patient rehabilitation center in Makati City. More importantly, the son of a poor fisherman from Argao, Cebu, has achieved spiritual awakening, meaning Torion has developed a strong relationship with God.

"This spiritual awakening is the best guarantee and best deterrent to one's craving for drugs, alcohol and other forms of addiction, including gambling," said Jun Jun Abella, project director of Life Management Foundation Inc., the rehab center where Torion was admitted on May 7.

"We are glad that Torion has been given a clean bill of health," said Jessie Villanueva, basketball division chief of the Games and Amusement Board. ``There will be no problem with the restoration of his license as far as we are concerned." Villanueva said the GAB considers Mr. Torion an out-patient after coming out of rehab. Torion is scheduled to appear before the GAB on July 16 to present all documents, including one from the PBA, showing that he has complied with all the requirements of a strict rehab program needed for his reinstatement in the pro league.

PBA Commissioner Noli Eala is expected to make an announcement today or anytime this week regarding the case of Torion.

Earlier, GAB chair Eduardo Villanueva said he would restore the licenses of the suspended PBA players ascertained as innocent after hearing the side of the players themselves, the PBA, the health department and police authorities. ``Only if we find clear pieces of evidence in the players' favor will we decide to restore their licenses."

Torion is an interesting player pleasant to watch with his cat-quick moves. You are assured of total commitment when Torion plays.

``Torion always plays with raw courage and speed even against his more experienced rivals," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao. ``But he still needs guidance. Being young, he is likely to commit mistakes."

``We know that Torion is a good pointguard, but we are not condoning the misconduct of our players no matter how good they are," said team manager Tony Chua, stressing that Batang Red Bull will always take appropriate action against its erring players because the Photokina franchise believes its players should serve as role models in the community.

***

HOTHEADS IN SPORTS. I don't know actor-athlete Richard Gomez personally, but I remember his father Eddie Gomez who was a fellow member in a racing delegation sent to Hong Kong and Macau by the CAM Wreckers Association then headed by the late motor sports hero Arsenio ``Dodjie" Laurel way back in the 1960s. Richard Gomez, popularly known as Goma to his movie fans, was recently in the news after he figured in a ``basketbrawl" at the Ynares Center during the annual Star Olympics starring show biz people. In that ugly incident, Goma was portrayed by some writers as the ``bad guy" for having played a very physical game. In my opinion, Goma was more of a victim in this case. The television tapes showed it all.

The TV clip clearly showed Jinggoy Estrada, former San Juan mayor and son of deposed President Joseph Estrada, hitting Goma in the head from behind. At the same time, upcoming comedian Bayani Agbayani was also shown joining the fray, chasing and pushing Gomez. The incident is not good for sports. Incidentally, the referees are partly to blame for their failure to control the game: If Goma indeed played rough, why didn't they warn, slap a foul or eject him from the court? Aren't these referees supposed to assert their authority over the players, in particular the ill-tempered and hotheaded ones, because they exercise a direct and dominating influence over them?

Perfect five for Lacson

DONG Lacson (Assassin Game Farm) and partner Kenny Limjoco, fielding pure George Lay Roundheads, Left-Nose Hatch and Ray Hoskin Yellow-Legged McLeans fighters, swept their five matches in yesterday's conclusion of Roligon Mega Cockpit's 293-entry Hatawan sa Tag-ulan 5-Cock Derby.

Lacson's Dreamcatcher entry is also in combination with Alex Carlos and Richard Ramos.

The victory at Roligon came after Lacson, one of Iloilo's most prominent cockers and breeders, ruled last May's 260-entry Balikatan 2003.

Both events were hosted by Rolly Ligon and exclusively sponsored by Thunderbird Power Feeds & Univet Agricultural Products.

Only two other entries—Vir-Jun III of lawyer Virgilio Manguerra and son Jun and MCJ of Marcel Julao—managed to match Lacson's score.

SPORTS noodle

ANSWERS

From page A26

1. False (only 482 athletes)
2. Cameroon
3. Ronald Dableo
4. $41 million
5. 'Godzilla'
6. Testicular cancer
7. 6-foot-10

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SPORTS

Altas try to shuffle Cards as 3rd victims

GAMES TODAY (*Rizal Coliseum*)
11:30 p.m.—San Beda vs JRU (Jrs/Srs)
3 p.m.—Mapua vs UPHR (Srs/Jrs)

STANDINGS	W	L
Perpetual	2	0
Mapua	1	1
Letran	1	1
JRU	1	1
SSC-R	1	1
San Beda	1	1
PCU	1	1
St. Benilde	0	2

HAVING University of Perpetual Help-Rizal on top of the standings is something new in NCAA basketball.

And the league-leading Altas try to justify their unfamiliar status when they go up against the Mapua Cardinals today in the 79th NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Altas go for a third straight victory at 3 p.m. hoping to get the best anew from rookies Khiel Misa and Robert Barnson, swingman Dom Javier and skipper Marcel Cuenco.

The Cardinals, despite limited tuneup games in the pre-season, downed the Letran Knights, 66-58, in the opener but dropped their second game against the Jose Rizal University Heavy Bombers.

They will try to sustain their momentum when they collide with the San Beda Lions earlier at 1 p.m.

Misa and Javier, together with Cuenco and Barnson, were the leading figures in the twin victories of the Altas over College of St. Benilde on opening day and defending champion San Sebastian College on Friday.

The win over the Stags established the Altas, last year's doormats, as solid title threats.

Raymond Dula is expected to join hands with Nat Cruz, skipper Christian Guevarra, Jofferson Gonzales and Andrew Salud in leading the Cardinals, who are out to improve their sixth place finish last season.

June Navarro

PERPETUAL Help's tough defense gave the Altas their first win against College of St. Benilde on opening day. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

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Gov't debt burden up 15% in April at P2.93T

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY'S public debt rose by 15.21 percent or P387 billion to P2.93 trillion as of April from P2.54 trillion a year ago following the government's heavy borrowings from local and offshore markets to cover its yawning budget deficit.

In relation to the population, each of the 80 million Filipinos carries a debt burden of P36,651 outside of whatever personal obligations they may have.

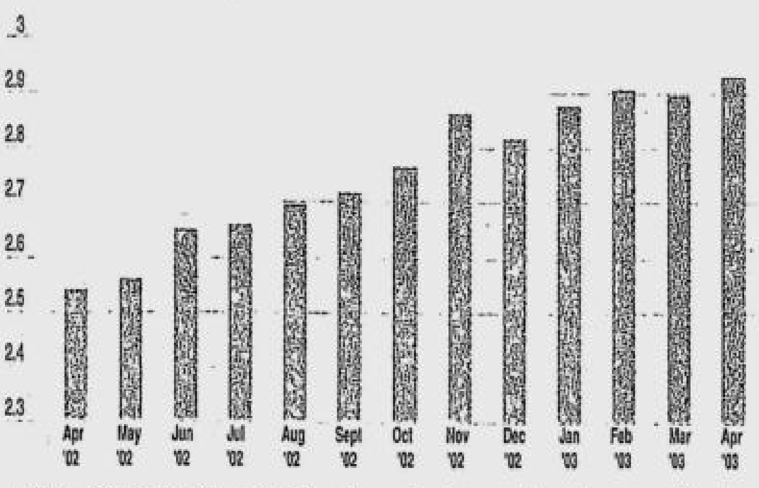
Government documents showed that the outstanding public debt in April went up by 1.2 percent or P35 billion from the previous month's P2.897 trillion.

Year-on-year, the size of local government borrowings grew by 16 percent or P211 billion to P1.53 trillion while foreign debt rose 14.4 percent or P177 billion to P1.41 trillion ($26.62 billion).

Comparing April to the previous month, domestic debt still increased by 2.45 percent or P51 billion from P1.476 trillion while overseas borrowings fell 1.06 percent or P15 billion from P1.42 trillion ($26.56 billion) in March.

PUBLIC SECTOR DEBT

April 2002 to April 2003 in trillion Pesos



A weaker local currency in April 2003 at P52.80 to a dollar against the previous year's P50.65 partly pushed the peso equivalent of the foreign public debt.

In March, the average exchange rate was P53.50 to $1. It was during this month when the peso dropped to an all-time closing low of P55.099.

Much of the government's foreign borrowings happened in the first quarter although the central bank tapped a $585-million loan primarily to settle $500 million worth of maturing debts in April.

Local borrowings are expected to substantially grow this year as the government said it would raise more than 50 percent of its net financing requirement worth P198.55 billion from the domestic market where interest rates have remained modest.

The size of outstanding local debts would swell further in June once the government has factored in the sale of P74.3 billion worth of retail treasury bonds.

On top of outstanding obligations, the government also has to worry about P603.49 billion worth of contingent liabilities as of April, of which P588.62 billion are directly guaranteed by the national government.

In April 2002, the size of contingent debts directly guaranteed by the government stood at only P486 billion. In March 2003, total contingent obligations were higher at P611.84 billion, of which P596.83 billion carried direct sovereign guarantees.

Contingent debts are borrowings backed by sovereign guarantees and could become actual liabilities each time state agencies and private sector companies with guaranteed loans fail to pay their obligations.

Of the total contingent debts, P582.5 billion are denominated in foreign currencies and only P20.96 billion in local currencies.

The country's public debt is seen to hit P3.06 trillion this year from P2.82 trillion in 2002.

BSP wants transparency in computing credit card rates

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is set to issue next month a set of guidelines to banks and other groups engaged in the credit card business that would require issuers to detail their charges in compliance with the principle of truth in lending.

This requirement, along with several others that seek more transparency and higher credit evaluation standards, would form part of the new and tighter credit card guidelines, according to the BSP.

BSP Assistant Governor Nestor Espenilla said the central bank might issue the guidelines next month once these have been approved by the policy-making Monetary Board.

He said the Credit Card Association of the Philippines has submitted its position on the draft guidelines.

"The focus of the forthcoming circular is better disclosure of what's going on in the credit card bill. We want more transparency and better handling of complaints," the official said.

Once the guidelines are implemented, Espenilla said credit card holders must be able to compute themselves the cost of their borrowing as the credit card issuer must detail the cost in a manner a regular client could understand.

Truth in lending requires banks and financial institutions to reveal the true and effective cost of a loan to a borrower.

Numerous complaints against credit card providers cited non-disclosure of the true cost of the loan.

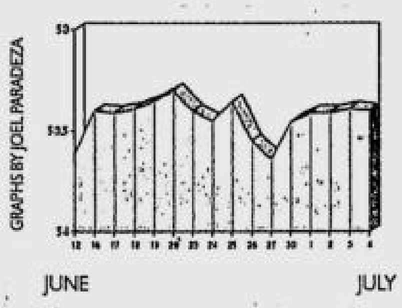
For instance, a customer complained that one of the biggest card providers enticed him to get a loan without collateral for a monthly interest rate of 1.5 percent or equivalent to 18 percent a year only to find out that the rate was applied on a compounded basis. Effectively, the loan cost him almost 32 percent a year.

"The credit card holder must enter into a transaction with eyes open and fully understanding the terms, particularly the computation of finance charges," said Espenilla.

He stressed that a credit card was a contract that must provide mutual benefit to both parties.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P53.40 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 4, 2003

Y118.14 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 4, 2003

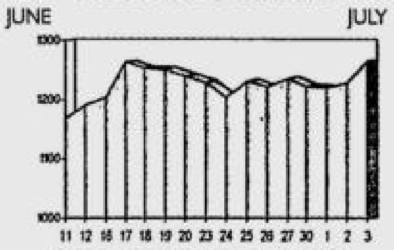
GOLD: $351.00-351.50

per ounce Hong Kong, July 4, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Upbeat trading seen

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B6)

TRADING in the local market will remain upbeat this week as foreign funds continue to trickle back on improving business confidence, traders said.

Eric Claudio, research head at Unicapital Securities, said short-term signals remained bullish given the positive momentum over the last few days.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained 27.67 points or 2.24 percent week-on-week to close at 1,264.27 on Friday, buoyed by a fresh reduction in the policy rates of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the improving revenue collection of the national government.

"Without that relatively surprising positive mood, the market is supposed to be consolidating within this month and the next on a seasonal basis. July and August are seasonally weak months not because of the economy but because of the liquidity of these months," Claudio said.

He said investors would continue to snap up stocks with good fundamentals that have hit bargain levels, such as Union Bank of the Philippines.

"There are also companies that have become exciting because concerns on balance sheet are easing, such as the Lopez companies," he said.

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., which generated a P1-billion airtime revenue for the second consecutive month in June, is among those seen benefiting from improved sentiment.

Other listed companies owned by the Lopezes are holding firm

UPBEAT/ B6

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Tasting the waiter

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

FOR a long time now, it's the talk in the much shrunken weakened camp of the man named Band…Wrist Band.

And that is, FP "the King" J himself, for whatever reason, silly or wise, has no interest in running for President, and only one thing can make him do so.

If Gloriaetta decides to break her word, and runs in 2004, based on talks in Wrist Band's small ring of hangers-on, FP "the King" J also runs.

In other words, our politics is going to turn into something like *sabong*.

* * *

DON'T you notice—all that jazz about FP "the King" J's supposed best performance by an actor-turned-politician in 2004 has died down?

The fade-out began last December. That was the month Gloriaetta surprised everybody by declaring, out of the blue, she would not run in 2004.

Things are different today. Signs are that Gloriaetta is going to run after all. At least it's still at the back of her

BREAKTIME/B4

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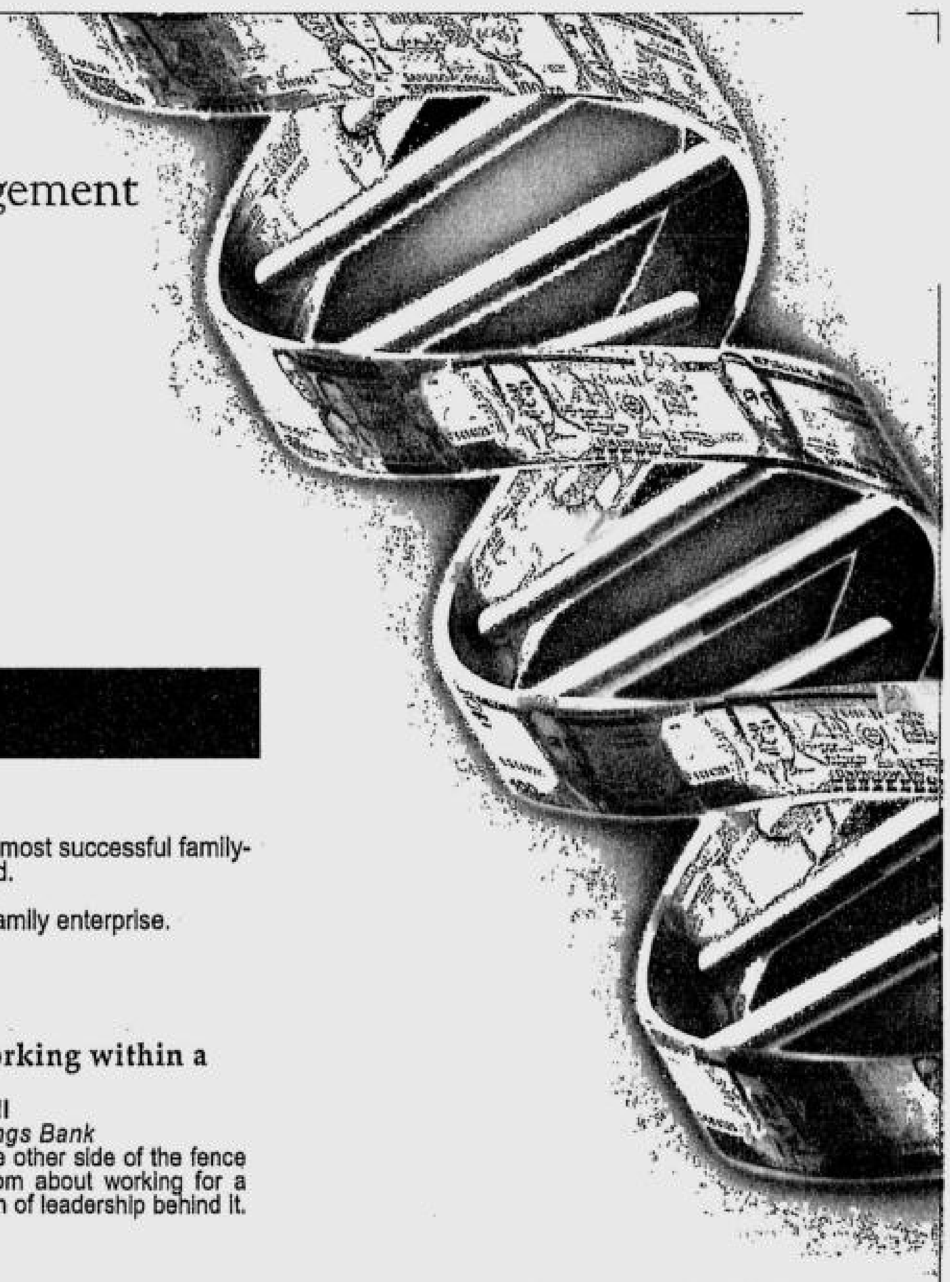

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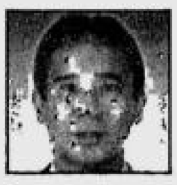

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Dark days in Diliman

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

IF you want to find out why the government machinery is the way it is, look no further at the ongoing imbroglio in UP Diliman, the academic factory for the government's senior and middle level bureaucrats.

A traditionally quiet, usually pre-determined succession process within the University of the Philippines Alumni Association has turned into a nasty electoral dispute that has now spilled over into the judiciary and the media.

On one camp is the long-time overlord of UPAA, the Upsilon Sigma Phi fraternity, pitted against UPAA's long serving first vice president/chief operating officer, Nelia Gonzalez, and her group.

Despite Gonzalez's having served four Upsilon-led board, she and the Upsilonians had a serious falling out after the UPAA 2000-2003 board, headed by Upsilonian lawyer Eduardo Hernandez, discovered that Gonzalez had deposited P700,000 of the alumni fund in Cooperative Bank, a rural bank in Nueva Ecija. (That money has since been safely withdrawn and transferred to a Metro Manila bank.)

There is a long laundry list drawn up by the Upsilonians against Gonzalez, including a Gonzalez grandson having left about P170,000 in unpaid office rent and utility charges at the UPAA-administered Ang Bahay ng Alumni and a Gonzalez son having been awarded the building's pest control services.

Stung by the charges, Gonzalez—a non-sorority sister, a former agriculture assistant secretary and a former UP Board of Regents member—wanted to return with a vengeance after one term's absence.

In the May 31 election for the 2003-2006 board, it appears that, on the basis of the initial uncontested counting, Gonzalez and her group won 20 of the 23 board seats.

What the Upsilonians now want is for the UPAA commission on elections to also enfranchise the list of alumni contained in two disputed envelopes, containing a total of 4,201 names.

Since the list would translate into bloc voting for the Upsilonian ticket that could overturn Gonzalez's lead and probably even decimate her group, Gonzalez went to court to force the UPAA comelec to stop considering the questioned voters and already proclaim her group as the electoral winners.

As may be gleaned from the written judicial comments from both sides, it has become clear that vote buying is not confined only in Lanao. And as in Lanao, even the dead, the birds, and the bees are now also being asked to vote in Diliman.

The two questioned envelops contained 19 manager's checks issued by Maybank Ortigas branch, valued at P592,300, with the Upsilon Sigma Phi Alumni Association as payor. The Upsilon alumni association said the lump sum represented the advance membership payments of UP alumni whose names it would later submit to the UPAA comelec.

The problem is, the Upsilon list was submitted April 16, a day after the deadline.

Worse, the list included the names of three dead alumni: Alfredo T. Ramirez, Edgardo C. Rabuy, and Rep. Marcial C. Punzalan Jr.

The Gonzalez camp also followed the same trick. Gonzalez issued a blank check to pay for the membership dues of 155 delinquent alumni, whose names her camp also submitted after the April 15 deadline.

The turnover of the new board was supposed to have been done during the June 21 alumni homecoming, but with the prospect of a protracted court hearing, the holdover Upsilonian-dominated board may now have to indefinitely hold office.

Meanwhile, a side judicial issue has also developed.

The Quezon City Regional Trial Court 93, presided by Judge Rogelio Pizarro, which is adjudicating the UPAA case, is not the Supreme Court-designated venue for intra-corporate dispute.

According to the grapevine, the two RTC branches so designated are Branch 90 under Judge Reynaldo Daway and Branch 93 under Apolinario D. Bruselas Jr.

But that, as they say, is another issue altogether.

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Malaysian money

DESPITE the spectacular losses suffered by the other Malaysian groups in their Philippine operations, another Malaysian financial powerhouse is strengthening its presence in the country.

A member of the Malaysian royal family, the 42-year-old Yang Mulia Tunku Dato' Ya'acob Bin Tunku Abdullah (we hope we got his name correct!), chair of the Malaysian Assurance Alliance Berhad, is in town to inaugurate MAA Mutualife Philippines Inc., an asset management company.

Tunku Ya'aacob's family literally smells of money, the portrait of his late grandfather, the first king of Malaysia, Tuanku Abdul Rahman, being featured in all the denominations of the Malaysian ringgit notes.

Right after the Erap ouster, MAA ventured into the country with the establishment of the MAA Assurance and Guarantee Philippines, whose Malaysian parent is the largest combined life and non-life insurance company in Malaysia.

Heard through the grapevine

THE MUTINOUS career officers in the Rome embassy have also asked Malacañang to look into the four diplomatic vehicles that had been acquired by our ambassador to Italy, the Erap-appointee Philippe Lhuillier.

Under the Italian diplomatic rules, a foreign ambassador may acquire up to two tax-free limousines during his tenure. As in the Philippines, the Italians do not, however, prohibit an embassy from purchasing additional luxury cars if they are placed in the name of lower-ranking diplomatic officers.

If you doubt this tale, go and ask our Favorite Publisher. Ever the expansive host, Lhuillier gave Favorite Publisher a free hand to choose among the Jaguar S, Mercedes Benz E500, MB S500, and an MB van in the embassy carpool as official touring car when Favorite Publisher visited Rome last week.

The service came with a uniformed driver and a protocol officer, on top of the usual courtesies. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

Telecom firm pursues WiFi deployment plan

By Abigail L. Ho

GLOBEQUEST, the data communications brand of Ayala-led Globe Telecom Inc., will continue rolling out wireless fidelity hotspots despite an opinion by a National Telecommunications Commission official that the commercial deployment of the technology was illegal.

"We're still rolling out. We're still being given permits to import equipment and permits for access points (by the NTC). Right now, everything's status quo," GlobeQuest head Jesus Romero said in an interview.

More than a week ago, NTC common carrier authorization department head Edgardo Cabarios said WiFi for commercial use in certain regions in the country, including Metro Manila, was deemed illegal under a law en

TELECOM/ B6

Ayala in a dilemma over German firm's Globe divestment plan

By Doris C. Dumlao

DEUTSCHE Telekom's plan to sell its stake in Globe Telecom has created a dilemma for Ayala Corp.—whether to raise its stake in the profitable subsidiary or waive its right in order to focus on debt reduction.

Most analysts would not view it as favorable if Ayala were to incur more debts to take up even part of Deutsche Telekom's 24.8-percent stake, which is estimated to be worth $500-$600 million.

"We do not think Ayala will buy a meaningful chunk of what (the German firm) is selling, if any at all. We think that if it acquires part of the stake, it would be contrary to their bigger-picture view of 'de-leveraging' their own balance sheet even as further investment in Globe is justifiable," said Jojo Gonzales, research head of Philippine Equity Partners Inc.

Joseph Roxas, president of Eagle Equities Inc., said increasing Ayala's stake in Globe would be good for Globe shareholders because it would ensure a steady stream of dividends, but he would prefer if Ayala would buy only what it could afford based on existing cash flow.

"If I were Ayala, a portion of the shares I will make Globe itself buy through treasury-held shares so nobody will be diluted. I think Globe can afford it because it has retained earnings," Roxas said.

"Maybe, Ayala can buy some of it but it shouldn't borrow just to buy. It has to generate cash flow from somewhere as it cannot pay debt by equitizing income," he said.

Deutsche Telekom has offered to sell its

AYALA/ B6

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Breaktime ...

From page B2

political horde's head.

But why will Gloriaetta want to break her word? Well, that is all part of politics. You say one thing and just do another.

* * *

TODAY, therefore, we have a brand new Wrist Band who talks as if he is the spokesman of his longtime friend, FP "the King" J, who is actually Ronald Poe in real life.

Well, on FP "the King" J's candidacy in 2004, Wrist Band says it's now more of a "yes" than it is a "no." Hmm.

Maybe even in real life, just like in the movies, FP "the King" J is the strong silent type who has only one syllable answers to tough issues like the presidency.

It's always "yes" or "no." Excuse me, Mr. President, but how do you plan to solve the ballooning budget deficit? And the reply comes—"yes."

* * *

ANYWAY, it's one of the biggest worries in business. What happens if the sabong between Gloriaetta and FP "the King" J really takes place? Well, simple, the latter will win.

All right, we don't have to be too negative about it. Another actor as President of the Republic is not the end of the world. It only means more trouble for us.

I just don't know if, in the event of this FP "the King" J presidency, the same interests which worked hard to bring down Wrist Band are going to rest.

* * *

AS for Gloriaetta, according to a close-in adviser, she is still tasting the waiter, *este*, testing the water—the political waiter ... water.

That's all there was to that much talked about supposed "meeting" between Gloriaetta and Danding (Eduardo Cojuangco Jr, chair and CEO of San Miguel).

In their informal chat, Gloriaetta only tried to cement political alliances with Danding. His party, the National People's Coalition, is not a pushover in national politics.

I think that Gloriaetta is doing the right thing. For whether or not she runs in 2004, she can use a lot of political friends. She is really isolated politically.

* * *

NOBODY is certain in business whether or not Gloriaetta is even in control of her own political party Lakas. Look, party members just do as they please.

In cementing political alliances, basically, Gloriaetta is trying to gain political control. It is the only way any president can run this country.

If it sounds like the same idea as Danding's—that we need to control politics before anything else—it's because it is.

Really, there's still too much politics. Let's say our leader can unify all the political groups. For starters, we save a lot in propaganda costs charged to taxpayers.

* * *

AT the end of the day, you see, Gloriaetta's decision for 2004 still all depends on the public ratings game.

One scenario therefore is, you can watch the political plan of FP "the King J" disintegrate, if Gloriaetta decides to call it quits in 2004, say, due to poor ratings.

Around the Palace, they even think that it can become a three-cornered fight among Gloriaetta, former Education Secretary Raul Roco, and Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

If that is the case, they think that Lacson has the edge. He can win. But then again, he will not be allowed to run. He will be sent on an extended vacation to jail.

* * *

AT the same time, Gloriaetta is trying to gather support for the Supreme Court. The image of the Supreme Court is not exactly at its most shining.

For if, in business, for instance, the dissatisfaction with the Supreme Court grows, this cute administration will deal with more political turmoil.

Whatever is left of it, the Wrist Band "camp" is playing their Supreme Court wild card. They are agitating for the impeachment of certain justices.

For sure Gloriaetta wants to slaughter the impeachment beast. If it grows and then breeds, this cute administration is in trouble. It becomes illegitimate.

* * *

TOWARDS that end, which is the re-imaging of the Supreme Court, not the least of Gloriaetta's desire is the support of Danding.

Word goes around that, actually, Danding is thinking of running in 2004, but he is going to defer to Gloriaetta, if she decides to run.

The undertone is strong that Danding worries about what Gloriaetta and her, ahh, gofers in the judiciary can do to Danding.

If he fights Gloriaetta, they can make the power of the presidency, plus the judiciary's, to bear upon him and his fortune. Danding still has cases in various courts.

* * *

JUST last week, Gloriaetta appointed another Supreme Court justice, the seventh one during her watch. It was former Rep. Dante Tinga.

Among lawyers, who are worse gossips than reporters, everybody knows that Tinga did not have the backing of an influential group in Makati.

The group built a reputation for being tightly close to the Palace, and for that vacant position at the Supreme Court, they had another "chicken" (you know—manok).

But Gloriaetta did not appoint the chicken. If she did, you see, she could stir up some influential business crowd.

* * *

FOR instance, I just heard of a group called Tres Ng Mayo. The members are in the real estate business, all big names in the land game.

They have one thing in common. And that is, they all fear for the loss of their huge land holdings.

All the land is part of the controversial Maysilo estate. There is a huge case before the Supreme Court involving the land.

On one side of the case are the members of the Tres Ng Mayo; at the other is a company known as CLT Realty Development. It is well connected.

* * *

AMONG the incorporators of CLT Realty, based on SEC records, are lawyers Arthur Villaraza and Raoul Angangco.

Theirs are names in the Villaraza Angangco law office, which is more popularly known in business as THE Firm.

It was known as the Carpio Villaraza Cruz law office, until the partners left for ... well, "public service."

Among them were Supreme Court Justice Antonio Carpio, presidential legal adviser Avelino Cruz, and Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo.

Before his dizzying rocket ride from nowhere up to the Supreme Court, Carpio was the lawyer of CLT Realty.

And that's why the members of the Tres Ng Mayo are worried.

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The Search for
The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) 2003

Philippine Jaycees Inc. Equitable PCI PLDT
TOYM Foundation Inc. Gerry Roxas Foundation PHINMA INQUIRER

TOYM HIGHLIGHTS

Deadline for the submission of Nomination Forms is on July 31, 2003 at the JCP Headquarters 14 Don Alejandro Roces Avenue, Quezon City. (Tel. Nos. 373-7907 to 09)
Website: www.toym.org

***Question:** What do Ninoy Aquino, Lea Salonga, Onyok Velasco, Sen. Loren Legarda, Gary Valenciano, Jessica Soho, Liza Macuja-Elizalde, Manny Pangilinan, Sec. Dong Puno, Alejandro Roces and Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, Lance Gokongwei, Butch Jimenez have in common?*

Answer: They were all past winners of the TOYM, the nation's most prestigious and most coveted awards for young Filipino achievers, aged 18 to 40. For more than forty years now, The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) Awards, a symbol of good citizenship and social commitment, has given honor and recognition to young individuals who have made a significant impact and difference in the lives of Filipinos and the entire nation. Pioneered by Amb. Howard Q. Dee, then of the Manila Jaycees in 1959, and later, adopted as a national project of the Philippine Jaycees in 1960, the TOYM was initiated to give distinction to outstanding young men for their significant contributions to their fields of endeavor, to their community and to the nation

As the TOYM celebrates its forty fifth year in 2003, the Awards Search has truly become an institution, having honored no less than three hundred and sixty-eight leaders and achievers, as well as having successfully inspired other young Filipinos to excel in their fields of endeavor. But more than this, it has become an icon, a veritable representation of what is the best in the Filipino and the spirit of "service to humanity." This year's TOYM Search is made possible by the efforts of the Philippine Jaycees, Inc. The TOYM Foundation, Inc., the Gerry Roxas Foundation, the Equitable-PCI Bank, PLDT, Philippine Daily Inquirer. and PHINMA. Nomination forms can be downloaded from www.toym.org or contact your local Jaycees Chapter or Phil. Jaycees HQ.

By: Reginald T. Yu, (Manila Jaycees Inc.)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

My horror story about BIR

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

THE HEADLINE story the other day that 147 employees of the Bureau of Internal Revenue are facing charges brought back my own personal horror story about that great institution.

Two months after my wife passed away, I was at the local BIR office to find out how I could settle the estate tax. I was given a set of written instructions, which did not look too daunting. Even the tax form looked straightforward.

The estate my wife left consisted only of our residential house and lot and some shares of listed companies. Like many dutiful husbands, I would occasionally buy some stocks and place it in her name, which flattered her no end.

It took about six months to put together the 25 documents, including the extra-judicial settlement, which had to be sent to my three children in the United States, in support of the estate tax return. To compute the tax, which was fairly simple, I followed my auditor's suggestion to maximize the allowable deductions.

I submitted the completed tax form, the supporting documents, and my check to the examiner assigned to my case. Let me say at this point that the examiner was a very decent fellow. So was the head of the office and his deputy.

Two weeks later, I was back at examiner's desk. He showed me his computation of the tax due. He had disallowed some of my deductions, as I had expected. I paid the additional assessment. I thought my message was abundantly clear: I was not going into some kind of under-the-table arrangement. Besides, I figure my wife would not rest in peace if I were to do some fancy footwork at the BIR about her estate tax.

Then, I asked him when I could expect the Certificate Authorizing Registration. He said the assessment division would take months to go over my papers. Why should it take that long, I asked. Reviewing my returns should not take more than a couple of hours. Besides, I paid what had been assessed. The examiner just shrugged his shoulders.

Every month, I phoned the examiner. Nothing. Two weeks after the anniversary of my check, he told me that there was a small additional assessment. I paid the amount. He assured me the authority should be out in a week. That week stretched out to six. From the time I filed my return up to the time I got the authority had taken 14 months. It should have taken only a couple of days. The delay was at the assessment division.

I thought I was rid of the BIR. But when I brought the authority, together with another set of documents required by the Register of Deeds, so that a new one could be issued, I was told to submit original or certified copies of all the papers that supported my estate tax return. In effect, I was asked to repeat what I did at BIR. I asked why was the original copy of the authority not enough to prove that I had fully paid my estate tax liability at the BIR. I was told that, when the BIR comes to audit the Register of Deeds, the auditor looks for those supporting papers. To my misfortune, I had lost a receipt for P60. The papers would not move until I presented a true copy certified by BIR. The transactions at the Register of Deeds took another four months.

It was not just the delay that got to me. It was the mountain of supporting documents that swamped me. The government is so bound in reels and reels of red tape, it can barely move. And, of course, cutting the red tape is another term for graft and corruption to which I simply refused to be a part. But look where I ended up.

I am sure I could have speeded up the whole affair had I greased my way through. But why should I have done so, when there was nothing fraudulent about my estate tax return?

When ordinary taxpayers want to do ordinary business with the government, why should they be given a hard time? Looking at the multibillion-peso deals that some people can close with the government, I feel so inadequate and stupid. Excuse me, I will now go to my favorite bar and get roaring drunk.

Next Mobile sees profit next year

By Abigail L. Ho

TRUNK radio operator Next Mobile Philippines Inc. expects to be in the black by next year with earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization seen to hit P50 million.

About two years ago, the company had been losing about P4 million a month, Next Mobile president Mel Velarde said in an interview.

However, he said the company had been registering positive Ebitda for the past several months and was on track to meeting its P50-million Ebitda target for 2003.

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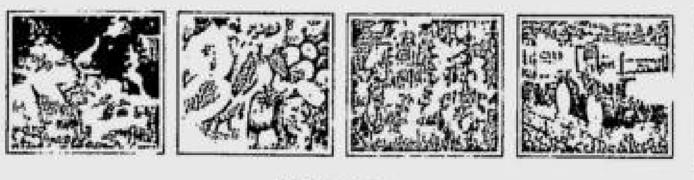

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ABS-CBN expects net income breaching ₱1-B mark in 2003

By Doris C. Dumlao

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. expects its net profit to recover to "well over a billion" this year from only P165.78 million in 2002 on record-breaking airtime sales chalked up starting May this year.

"Business is very good. We just hope it keeps up," ABS-CBN chair Eugenio Lopez III told reporters Friday night, boosting his confidence that the network's earnings would climb back to pre-2001 levels.

This developed as ABS-CBN reported over a billion pesos in local radio and television advertising sales for the second straight month in June. It posted record breaking gross airtime sales of P1.1 billion following another P1 billion in May, bringing the company's six-month revenue from radio and TV networks to P5.1 billion or 25 percent better than a year ago.

The phenomenal success of Taiwanese TV series "Meteor Garden," which premiered only last May and has since captured a big chunk of late afternoon viewership, also contributed to the surge in its advertising revenues.

"We delivered almost twice the revenue versus competition with less advertising minutes," ABS-CBN senior vice president for integrated marketing and sales Nicanor Gabunada Jr. said.

"The first billion we made last May was not a fluke. The second billion confirms higher advertiser trust and confidence. Our business partners expect us to sustain our current performance," Gabunada added.

In 2002, ABS-CBN's net profit shrunk by 87 percent to P165.78 million from P1.37 billion the previous year following the global slowdown in advertising spending. Airtime revenue fell by 3.6 percent to P8.75 billion while deductions from operating income before income taxes rose by 24 percent to P763 million due to higher interest expense and higher losses from equity in affiliates, or companies where ABS-CBN holds less than majority ownership.

Although ABS-CBN expects advertisers to scramble for airtime, Gabunada said the media firm would comply with industry-mandated commercial loading limits in order to deliver higher ratings.

"Our big concern now is how to increase viewing pleasure for our audience by limiting the loading of commercials in all our programs and still hit our 2003 targets," Gabunada said.

Alden Castañeda, vice president for sales and marketing, noted that TV ratings by AGB Philippines indicated a phenomenal jump in time slots that were previously considered weak.

"For instance, the ratings for our 6 a.m. to noontime block rose from 8 to 10.3, resulting in a 42-percent advantage in viewership over the nearest competitor," Castaneda said.

As of mid-June 2003, he said ABS-CBN had a "commanding" 41-percent advantage in viewership over the nearest rival, consistently across the morning, afternoon and early evening time blocks.

MALAYSIAN OIL GIANT

PNOC unit says drilling talks preliminary

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE EXPLORATION arm of the state-owned Philippine National Oil Co. said Saturday that negotiations with Malaysia's Petroliam Nasional Bhd on a possible deal in a drilling project were at the initial stage only.

In a letter to the Philippine Stock Exchange, PNOC Exploration Corp. clarified that it was in initial talks with Petronas for a the latter's possible farm-in into a petroleum exploration project in Mindoro.

PNOC-EC made the statement following reports that a deal was being finalized with Malaysia's petroleum giant.

The company said it hoped to raise the attractiveness of the area to third-party investors or farm-in partners, primarily with the Cherry prospec—the most attrative in PNOC-EC's inventory.

Farm-in opportunities have also been offered to Unocal of the United States, Lasmo of the United Kingdom, PT Tegar and PTT-EP of Thailand, Amity Oil and Santos of Australia, Medco of Indonesia and GM International of Canada.

The Department of Energy had announced last month that it would offer for public bidding 46 new exploration blocks close to oil and gas discoveries and producing fields.

Highly prospective areas in Northwest Palawan and vast frontier areas in Southwest and East Palawan, Sulu Sea and Reed Bank would be included in the bidding.

The DOE said its First Philippines Petroleum Public Contracting Round or PCR-1—which would be launched on Aug. 5--was a new way of awarding concessions in oil and gas exploration through competitive public bidding.

The DOE said it aimed to build on the technical and commercial successes of the deep-water Malampaya gas project off Palawan, which demonstrated that giant petroleum reserves could be found in the country.

The $4.5-billion Malampaya deep water gas-to-power project is tapping a reserve that holds at least 2.7 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

The agency added that the areas to be opened for licensing covered a total of 215,000 square kilometers that are believed to have the highest potential in bearing large oil and gas reserves in the country.

Ayala in a dilemma . . .

From page B3

stake jointly to Ayala and Singapore Telecom International Pte. Ltd., which respectively own 32.7-percent and 29.1-percent of Globe. Ayala and SingTel have 45 days to decide on the offer.

Gonzales said the stock price of Globe could remain sluggish, if not weaken, over the 45-day period during which Ayala and Singtel were to consider whether to acquire the stake. If Ayala and Singtel would decide to acquire the entire stake, he said it would remove the overhang from the share price but would not contribute to improving stock liquidity.

Of the total stake held by Deutsche Telekom, an estimated 12 percent is held directly in the form of common shares while the balance is owned through Asiacom--a joint venture that is 60-percent owned by Ayala, 20 percent by Singtel; and 20 percent owned by the German firm.

"If Ayala and Singtel waive their right to acquire the stake, Deutsche Telekom may choose to sell the common shares publicly. In our view, a likely scenario is that Singtel will take out Deutsche Telekom at the Asiacom level," Gonzales said.

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Eagleridge A/B*/C**	270,000/450,000**	230,000
Eastridge B	-	80,000
Evercrest	100,000	-
Fontana D/C*/A**	70,000/140,000*/230,000**	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	220,000/230,000*/250,000**	175,000
Manila Golf Ind./Corp.*	12,000,000*	10,000,000/11,000,000*
Manila Polo	2,325,000	-
Makati Sports Club A/B*	-	210,000
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Manila Southwoods A/B*	540,000/600,000*	450,000
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Mt. Malarayat Ind./Corp.*	270,000	-
Orchard Golf A/B*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Phil. Columbian	70,000	-
Puerto Azul A/B	100,000/150,000*	-
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[illegible]	300,000	250,000
[illegible]	160,000	-

[illegible]
ORTIGAS: [illegible]4209/Tel. 6359016/6359630/6359725
ALABANG: 8504151-52/8092034/(0917)9287[illegible]

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CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	-	1,270,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,400,000
Baguio Country Club	Please Call	750,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	70,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	80,000
Camp John Hay	200,000	230,000
Canlubang	450,000	550,000
Canyonwoods	100,000	150,000
Capitol Hills	130,000	160,000
Cebu Country Club	1,200,000	-
Celebrity Sports Club	170,000	185,000
Club Filipino	130,000	190,000
Evercrest "A"	-	80,000
Forest Hills "A"	Please Call	200,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	200,000
Forest Hills "C"	210,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	230,000	270,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	12,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,100,000	10,600,000
Manila Polo	2,100,000	2,300,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	420,000	500,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	500,000	650,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	500,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	80,000
Mimosa (Individual)	90,000	135,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	-	275,000
Montemar (Individual)	40,000	55,000
Montemar (Corporate)	70,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	-	250,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"		500,000
Puerto Azul		100,000
Quezon City Sports Club		200,000
Rockwell		380,000
Royale Tagaytay "A"	-	Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	80,000
Sherwood Hills "B"		130,000
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	170,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,130,000	1,500,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	1,600,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)		280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	370,000	430,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	750,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	120,000	140,000
Valley Golf	250,000	300,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	Please Call	-

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Upbeat stock trading seen

From page B1

Benpres Holdings Corp., First Philippine Holdings Corp. and Manila Electric Co.

Claudio said another stock from which investors could take a little more risk in accumulating was property developer Filinvest Land Inc.

As the market has breached a strong resistance at 1,264, Claudio said the Phisix would next attempt to break past 1,300.

"For the full year, we think that the market can hit close to 1,400," he said.

Eagle Equities Inc. president Joseph Roxas said the banking sector would likely benefit from robust investor interest this week.

"Well, foreign money keeps coming in. There's liquidity circulating in the market," he said.

He said banking stocks like Bank of the Philippine Islands, Equitable PCI Bank and Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. have hit attractive levels and momentum indicators on these issues have started to pick up.

On the other hand, AB Capital Securities analyst Jose Vistan said the market might see a slight pullback this week.

"A lot of positive news have already been priced into stocks and the pace of the rally is likely to slow down from here. Some stocks that have had such a strong run-up are going to need time to adjust to those gains," Vistan said.

If a correction would transpire, he said the Phisix could slip to the 1,150-1,300 range.

"This could be followed by some sideways consolidation during the lean months of August and July. The deficit and corporate earnings are likely to present the market's biggest challenge over the near term. Once the challenges are overhauled and the optimism actualized, then a second and stronger second leg of the rally should follow in the fourth quarter," Vistan explained. *Doris C. Dumlao*

INTEREST RATES

July 04, 2003- MART1 Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 4-Jul-03	MART1 3-Jul-03
1 Month	6.3107	6.2964
3 Months	6.4673	6.5173
6 Months	7.2232	7.4179
1 Year	7.9533	7.9333
2 Years	8.7467	8.7317
3 Years	9.665	9.6667
4 Years	10.0333	10.0783
5 Years	10.2633	10.275
7 Years	11.1417	11.1833
10 Years	11.45	11.4555
20 Years	12.0217	12.0267
25 Years	12.4	12.4183

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 4, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19	19.5	19	19.5	646,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48	48	47	47.5	279,800
China Banking Corp.	750	750	750	750	1,000
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33	33.5	33	33	121,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	31	31	31	488,000
Philippine National Bank	24	25	24	25	109,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12	12.5	12	12.5	14,200
Security Bank Corp.	13	15	13	15	758,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	19	20	19	20	130,200
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	200,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	3	3	3	3	3,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1515	1515	1515	1515	830
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1090	1100	1085	1100	3,300
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	19.5	20.25	19.5	19.75	80,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.72	0.74	1,550,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	645	665	645	660	57,400
Ipeople Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	500,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.046	0.046	0.045	0.045	1,700,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	2,700,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	6,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.42	0.44	0.42	0.44	6,250,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	580	585	575	580	173,740
Ivantage Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	20,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	303,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	10.25	11.75	10.25	11.75	2,970,600
Manila Electric Co. B	15.75	17	15.75	17	2,829,000
Petron Corp.	2.06	2.06	2.04	2.04	3,045,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	5,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.44	1.46	1.44	1.44	100,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.85	2.9	2.85	2.85	494,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
William,Gothong & Aboitiz	2	2.1	2	2.1	11,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.45	180,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	22,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31	31	31	25,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	627,200
RFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	110,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	410,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53.5	54	53.5	54	60,200
San Miguel Corp. B	63.5	63.5	63	63.5	109,900
Universal Robina Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	8,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.235	0.25	0.235	0.235	640,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	70,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.4	0.4	0.38	0.38	30,000
Ayala Corp.	4.7	4.7	4.65	4.65	7,685,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.42	2.42	2.4	2.42	320,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	3,300,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	20,000
APC Group Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	300,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	78,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.66	1.68	1.66	1.68	17,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	200,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	22,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.59	0.6	0.57	0.59	20,330,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	300,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.185	0.185	410,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	850,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.22	0.22	60,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	13.25	14.5	13.25	14.5	2,672,600
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	100,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
Ionics Inc.	0.8	0.81	0.8	0.81	260,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	55,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	2,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.76	0.76	110,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	10,200,000
Music Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	370,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.17	0.19	0.16	0.165	1,700,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	130,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	8,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.6	1.62	1.6	1.62	16,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	200,000
Pryce Corp.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	300,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	16	16	16	16	51,100
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.59	0.6	0.59	0.6	8,630,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	340,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.41	0.41	220,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	20	20.25	20	20.25	800,000
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	49,000,000
WGA - Preferred	6	6	6	6	22,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	7,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.2	1,561,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.23	0.25	110,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.23	290,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.225	0.24	0.225	0.23	5,240,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.26	7,060,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	6,679,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.16	2.2	2.14	2.18	680,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.165	0.165	0.155	0.155	420,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.22	0.245	0.22	0.23	4,150,000
Primex Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	51,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2	2.1	2	2	381,000
SM Development Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	92,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.1	5,022,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	305,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	250,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0028	0.003	0.0028	0.003	28,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	50,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	164,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	50,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	2,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	500,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	130,000

CURRENCIES

July 4, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.869943	1.000000	53.407000
Japan	Yen	0.007360	0.008460	0.451800
United Kingdom	Pound	1.451936	1.669000	89.136300
Hongkong	Dollar	0.111564	0.128243	6.849100
Switzerland	Franc	0.645024	0.741455	39.598900
Canada	Dollar	0.651107	0.748447	39.972300
Singapore	Dollar	0.496968	0.571265	30.509500
Australia	Dollar	0.593818	0.682594	36.455300
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.307665	2.652661	141.670700
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.231979	0.266660	14.241500
Brunei	Dollar	0.495553	0.569638	30.422700
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000106	0.000122	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.020872	0.023992	1.281300
UAE	Dirham	0.236854	0.272264	14.540800
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.149500	61.391300
Argentina	Peso	0.311250	0.357782	19.108100
Brazil	Real	0.307836	0.353857	18.898400
Denmark	Kroner	0.134492	0.154598	8.256600
India	Rupee	0.018789	0.021598	1.153500
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.228963	0.263193	14.056300
Mexico	New Peso	0.083592	0.096089	5.131800
New Zealand	Dollar	0.518750	0.596303	31.846800
Norway	Kroner	0.120992	0.139080	7.427800
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015103	0.017361	0.927200
South Africa	Rand	0.115684	0.132979	7.102000
Korea	Won	0.000735	0.000845	0.045100
Sweden	Kroner	0.109167	0.125488	6.701900
Syria	Pound	0.020713	0.023810	1.271600
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025326	0.029112	1.554800
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000545	0.000627	0.033500

Telecom firm ...

From page B3

acted in the 1930s.

Under current NTC regulations, WiFi could not be deployed within the service areas of power distribution firm Manila Electric Co. as the 2.4-gigahertz frequency band to which WiFi belonged was currently being used by the Lopez-led firm for internal communications.

WiFi is a high-frequency wireless local access service that enables Internet access in certain "hotspots," or areas covered by a Wi-Fi provider's signal. Coverage is provided with the use of access points or equipment that are linked to the operator's Internet-connected central office.

However, the regulatory body has yet to issue a new directive. It has scheduled a public consultation regarding WiFi on July 17 to give stakeholders a chance to air their views on the matter.

Prohibition of commercial WiFi deployment will likely hit Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Southern Luzon.

Globe has been actively deploying wireless hotspots all over the country since May.

ABS-CBN expects net income breaching ₱1-B mark in 2003

By Doris C. Dumlao

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. expects its net profit to recover to "well over a billion" this year from only P165.78 million in 2002 on record-breaking airtime sales chalked up starting May this year.

"Business is very good. We just hope it keeps up," ABS-CBN chair Eugenio Lopez III told reporters Friday night, boosting his confidence that the network's earnings would climb back to pre-2001 levels.

This developed as ABS-CBN reported over a billion pesos in local radio and television advertising sales for the second straight month in June. It posted record-breaking gross airtime sales of P1.1 billion following another P1 billion in May, bringing the company's six-month revenue from radio and TV networks to P5.1 billion or 25 percent better than a year ago.

The phenomenal success of Taiwanese TV series "Meteor Garden," which premiered only last May and has since captured a big chunk of late afternoon viewership, also contributed to the surge in its advertising revenues.

"We delivered almost twice the revenue versus competition with less advertising minutes," ABS-CBN senior vice president for integrated marketing and sales Nicanor Gabunada Jr. said.

"The first billion we made last May was not a fluke. The second billion confirms higher advertiser trust and confidence. Our business partners expect us to sustain our current performance," Gabunada added.

In 2002, ABS-CBN's net profit shrunk by 87 percent to P165.78 million from P1.37 billion the previous year following the global slowdown in advertising spending. Airtime revenue fell by 3.6 percent to P8.75 billion while deductions from operating income before income taxes rose by 24 percent to P763 million due to higher interest expense and higher losses from equity in affiliates, or companies where ABS-CBN holds less than majority ownership.

Although ABS-CBN expects advertisers to scramble for airtime, Gabunada said the media firm would comply with industry-mandated commercial loading limits in order to deliver higher ratings.

"Our big concern now is how to increase viewing pleasure for our audience by limiting the loading of commercials in all our programs and still hit our 2003 targets," Gabunada said.

Alden Castañeda, vice president for sales and marketing, noted that TV ratings by AGB Philippines indicated a phenomenal jump in time slots that were previously considered weak.

"For instance, the ratings for our 6 a.m. to noontime block rose from 8 to 10.3, resulting in a 42-percent advantage in viewership over the nearest competitor," Castaneda said.

As of mid-June 2003, he said ABS-CBN had a "commanding" 41-percent advantage in viewership over the nearest rival, consistently across the morning, afternoon and early evening time blocks.

MALAYSIAN OIL GIANT

PNOC unit says drilling talks preliminary

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE EXPLORATION arm of the state-owned Philippine National Oil Co. said Saturday that negotiations with Malaysia's Petroliam Nasional Bhd on a possible deal in a drilling project were at the initial stage only.

In a letter to the Philippine Stock Exchange, PNOC Exploration Corp. clarified that it was in initial talks with Petronas for a the latter's possible farm-in into a petroleum exploration project in Mindoro.

PNOC-EC made the statement following reports that a deal was being finalized with Malaysia's petroleum giant.

The company said it hoped to raise the attractiveness of the area to third-party investors or farm-in partners, primarily with the Cherry prospec—the most attrative in PNOC-EC's inventory.

Farm-in opportunities have also been offered to Unocal of the United States, Lasmo of the United Kingdom, PT Tegar and PTT-EP of Thailand, Amity Oil and Santos of Australia, Medco of Indonesia and GM International of Canada.

The Department of Energy had announced last month that it would offer for public bidding 46 new exploration blocks close to oil and gas discoveries and producing fields.

Highly prospective areas in Northwest Palawan and vast frontier areas in Southwest and East Palawan, Sulu Sea and Reed Bank would be included in the bidding.

The DOE said its First Philippines Petroleum Public Contracting Round or PCR-1—which would be launched on Aug. 5--was a new way of awarding concessions in oil and gas exploration through competitive public bidding.

The DOE said it aimed to build on the technical and commercial successes of the deep-water Malampaya gas project off Palawan, which demonstrated that giant petroleum reserves could be found in the country.

The $4.5-billion Malampaya deep water gas-to-power project is tapping a reserve that holds at least 2.7 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

The agency added that the areas to be opened for licensing covered a total of 215,000 square kilometers that are believed to have the highest potential in bearing large oil and gas reserves in the country.

Ayala in a dilemma . . .

From page B3

stake jointly to Ayala and Singapore Telecom International Pte. Ltd., which respectively own 32.7-percent and 29.1-percent of Globe. Ayala and SingTel have 45 days to decide on the offer.

Gonzales said the stock price of Globe could remain sluggish, if not weaken, over the 45-day period during which Ayala and Singtel were to consider whether to acquire the stake. If Ayala and Singtel would decide to acquire the entire stake, he said it would remove the overhang from the share price but would not contribute to improving stock liquidity.

Of the total stake held by Deutsche Telekom, an estimated 12 percent is held directly in the form of common shares while the balance is owned through Asiacom--a joint venture that is 60-percent owned by Ayala, 20 percent by Singtel; and 20 percent owned by the German firm.

"If Ayala and Singtel waive their right to acquire the stake, Deutsche Telekom may choose to sell the common shares publicly. In our view, a likely scenario is that Singtel will take out Deutsche Telekom at the Asiacom level," Gonzales said.

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ALABANG "B"	1.5M	QC SPORTS "A"	200K	CANLUBANG	450K
BAGUIO CC	680K	RIVIERA "A"	Call now	CAPITOL HILLS	140K
CALATAGAN "A"	80K	S'WOODS "B"	600K	CC @ TAG	350K
CELEB (INDIV)	175K	STA ELENA "A"	1.350M	CLUB FILIPINO	140K
CELEB (CORP)	Call now	SUBIC BAY YACHT	Call now	FOREST HILLS "A"	150K
FOREST HILLS "A"	200K	TAGHLANDS	800K	MLA POLO	2.1M
MLA POLO	2.3M	TAGMIDLANDS	750K	MKTI SPORTS "A"	250K
ORCHARD "B"	Call now	VALLEY GOLF	300K	VALLEY GOLF	270K

PARTIAL AVAILABLE LESSORS FOR PLAYING RIGHTS

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MIMOSA GOLF & CC	10,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	30,000
MLA SOUTHWOODS	45,000	WACK WACK	[illegible]

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SELLING
Alabang A/B Please call
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Fontana D 50,000
Forest Hill A/B/C 180/220/230
Manila Polo 2,250,000
Manila Southwoods "A"/B 480/500
Mt. Malarayat "A" 270,000
Riviera A/B 130/170
Sta. Elena A 1.4M
Sherwood 95,000
Valle Verde CC 130,000
Tag Highland Club 380,000

BUYING
Alabang A 1.3M
Baguio Country Club 650,000
Camp John Hay Golf 320,000
Canlubang Golf 450,000
Capitol Hills 135,000
Celebrity 175,000
Manila Golf (Indiv)/Corp 10M/11M
Manila Polo 2.2M
Manila Southwoods "A"/B 450/500
Mimosa Corp 300,000
Orchard "A"/B/C 170,000/220,000/220
Tagaytay Highland Golf Club 750/380
Tagaytay Midlands 700,000
Valley Golf 270,000
Wack Wack 8.5M

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ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1.3M	-
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	-	630K
CAMP JOHN HAY	220K	-
CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	-	135K
EAGLE RIDGE "B"	-	300K
FONTANA "D"	50K	-
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	-	210K
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Ind.)	please call	-
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Corp.)	-	please call
MANILA POLO CLUB	2.300M	-
MIMOSA "C"	-	250K
MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB	-	30K
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	please call	-
RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "B"	250K	-
ROYALE TAGAYTAY	-	please call
SHERWOOD HILLS "B"	-	100K
SHERWOOD HILLS "C"	500K	-
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	-	1.3M
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "B"	please call	1.4M
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G & W clubshares
SEC License Broker No. A-17597
As of July 7, 2003

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A	1,270,000	-
Baguio Country Club	-	580,000
Camp John Hay	220,000	Pls Call
Canyon Woods	160,000	Pls Call
Capitol Hills	-	135,000
Calatagan Golf Club A/B**	70,000/Pls. Call	-
Celebrity Sports Club	160,000	150,000
Club Filipino	-	140,000
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	270,000/450,000**	230,000
Eastridge B	-	80,000
Evercrest	100,000	-
Fontana D/C*/A**	70,000/140,000*/230,000**	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	220,000/230,000*/250,000**	175,000
Manila Golf Ind./Corp.*	12,000,000*	10,000,000/11,000,000*
Manila Polo	2,325,000	-
Makati Sports Club A/B*	-	210,000
Manila Yacht Club	550,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	540,000/600,000*	450,000
Metropolitan Club	100,000	80,000
Mimosa Golf Ind./Corp.*	-	95,000/260,000*
Mt. Malarayat Ind./Corp.*	270,000	-
Orchard Golf A/B*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Phil. Columbian	70,000	-
Puerto Azul A/B	100,000/150,000*	-
Punta Fuego	500,000	400,000
Quezon City Sports Club A	220,000	-
Riviera Golf A/C*	380,000*	100,000
Royale Tagaytay A/C*	Pls. Call*	-
Sherwoods A/B*/C**	90,000/Pls. Call*	70,000**
Sta Elena Golf A/B*	-	1,400,000
Subic Bay Yacht Club (Corp.)	150,000	-
Spa & Lodge	700,000	-
Subic Golf	Pls. Call	-
Tagaytay Country Club	-	340,000
[illegible]	800,000	700,000
[illegible]	700,000	650,000
[illegible]	300,000	250,000
[illegible]	150,000	-

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CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	-	1,270,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,400,000
Baguio Country Club	Please Call	750,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	70,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	80,000
Camp John Hay	200,000	230,000
Canlubang	450,000	550,000
Canyonwoods	100,000	150,000
Capitol Hills	130,000	160,000
Cebu Country Club	1,200,000	-
Celebrity Sports Club	170,000	185,000
Club Filipino	130,000	190,000
Evercrest "A"	-	80,000
Forest Hills "A"	Please Call	200,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	200,000
Forest Hills "C"	210,000	260,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	230,000	270,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	12,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,100,000	10,600,000
Manila Polo	2,100,000	2,300,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	420,000	500,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	500,000	650,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	500,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	80,000
Mimosa (Individual)	90,000	135,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	-	275,000
Montemar (Individual)	40,000	55,000
Montemar (Corporate)	70,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	-	250,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"		500,000
Puerto Azul	-	100,000
Quezon City Sports Club		200,000
Rockwell		380,000
Royale Tagaytay "A"	-	Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	80,000
Sherwood Hills "B"	-	130,000
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	170,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,130,000	1,500,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	1,600,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)		280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)		120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	370,000	430,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	750,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	120,000	140,000
Valley Golf	260,000	300,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	Please Call	-

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Upbeat stock trading seen

From page B1

Benpres Holdings Corp., First Philippine Holdings Corp. and Manila Electric Co.

Claudio said another stock from which investors could take a little more risk in accumulating was property developer Filinvest Land Inc.

As the market has breached a strong resistance at 1,264, Claudio said the Phisix would next attempt to break past 1,300.

"For the full year, we think that the market can hit close to 1,400," he said.

Eagle Equities Inc. president Joseph Roxas said the banking sector would likely benefit from robust investor interest this week.

"Well, foreign money keeps coming in. There's liquidity circulating in the market," he said.

He said banking stocks like Bank of the Philippine Islands, Equitable PCI Bank and Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. have hit attractive levels and momentum indicators on these issues have started to pick up.

On the other hand, AB Capital Securities analyst Jose Vistan said the market might see a slight pullback this week.

"A lot of positive news have already been priced into stocks and the pace of the rally is likely to slow down from here. Some stocks that have had such a strong run-up are going to need time to adjust to those gains," Vistan said.

If a correction would transpire, he said the Phisix could slip to the 1,150-1,300 range.

"This could be followed by some sideways consolidation during the lean months of August and July. The deficit and corporate earnings are likely to present the market's biggest challenge over the near term. Once the challenges are overhauled and the optimism actualized, then a second and stronger second leg of the rally should follow in the fourth quarter," Vistan explained. *Doris C. Dumlao*

INTEREST RATES

July 04, 2003- MART1 Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 4-Jul-03	MART1 3-Jul-03
1 Month	6.3107	6.2964
3 Months	6.4673	6.5173
6 Months	7.2232	7.4179
1 Year	7.9533	7.9333
2 Years	8.7467	8.7317
3 Years	9.665	9.6667
4 Years	10.0333	10.0783
5 Years	10.2633	10.275
7 Years	11.1417	11.1833
10 Years	11.45	11.4555
20 Years	12.0217	12.0267
25 Years	12.4	12.4183

SOURCE : MART/BLOOMBERG

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 4, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19	19.5	19	19.5	646,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48	48	47	47.5	279,800
China Banking Corp.	750	750	750	750	1,000
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33	33.5	33	33	121,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	31	31	31	488,000
Philippine National Bank	24	25	24	25	109,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12	12.5	12	12.5	14,200
Security Bank Corp.	13	15	13	15	758,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	19	20	19	20	130,200
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	200,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	3	3	3	3	3,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1515	1515	1515	1515	830
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1090	1100	1085	1100	3,300
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	19.5	20.25	19.5	19.75	80,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.72	0.74	1,550,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	645	665	645	660	57,400
Ipeople Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	500,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.046	0.046	0.045	0.045	1,700,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	2,700,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	6,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.42	0.44	0.42	0.44	6,250,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	580	585	575	580	173,740
Ivantage Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	20,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	303,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	10.25	11.75	10.25	11.75	2,970,600
Manila Electric Co. B	15.75	17	15.75	17	2,829,000
Petron Corp.	2.06	2.06	2.04	2.04	3,045,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	5,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.44	1.46	1.44	1.44	100,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.85	2.9	2.85	2.85	494,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
William,Gothong & Aboitiz	2	2.1	2	2.1	11,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.45	180,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	22,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31	31	31	25,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	627,200
RFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	110,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	410,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53.5	54	53.5	54	60,200
San Miguel Corp. B	63.5	63.5	63	63.5	109,900
Universal Robina Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	8,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.235	0.25	0.235	0.235	640,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	70,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.4	0.4	0.38	0.38	30,000
Ayala Corp.	4.7	4.7	4.65	4.65	7,685,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.42	2.42	2.4	2.42	320,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	3,300,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	20,000
APC Group Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	300,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	78,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.66	1.68	1.66	1.68	17,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	200,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	22,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.59	0.6	0.57	0.59	20,330,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	300,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.185	0.185	410,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	850,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.22	0.22	60,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	13.25	14.5	13.25	14.5	2,672,600
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	100,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
Ionics Inc.	0.8	0.81	0.8	0.81	260,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	55,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	2,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.76	0.76	110,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	10,200,000
Music Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	370,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.17	0.19	0.16	0.165	1,700,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	130,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	8,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.6	1.62	1.6	1.62	16,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	200,000
Pryce Corp.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	300,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	16	16	16	16	51,100
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.59	0.6	0.59	0.6	8,630,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	340,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.41	0.41	220,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	20	20.25	20	20.25	800,000
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	49,000,000
WGA - Preferred	6	6	6	6	22,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	7,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.2	1,561,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.23	0.25	110,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.23	290,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.225	0.24	0.225	0.23	5,240,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.26	7,060,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	6,679,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.16	2.2	2.14	2.18	680,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.165	0.165	0.155	0.155	420,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.22	0.245	0.22	0.23	4,150,000
Primex Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	51,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2	2.1	2	2	381,000
SM Development Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	92,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.1	5,022,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	305,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	250,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0028	0.003	0.0028	0.003	28,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	50,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	164,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	50,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	2,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	500,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	130,000

CURRENCIES

July 4, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.869943	1.000000	53.407000
Japan	Yen	0.007360	0.008460	0.451800
United Kingdom	Pound	1.451936	1.669000	89.136300
Hongkong	Dollar	0.111564	0.128243	6.849100
Switzerland	Franc	0.645024	0.741455	39.598900
Canada	Dollar	0.651107	0.748447	39.972300
Singapore	Dollar	0.496968	0.571265	30.509500
Australia	Dollar	0.593818	0.682594	36.455300
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.307665	2.652661	141.670700
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.231979	0.266660	14.241500
Brunei	Dollar	0.495553	0.569638	30.422700
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000106	0.000122	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.020872	0.023992	1.281300
UAE	Dirham	0.236854	0.272264	14.540800
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.149500	61.391300
Argentina	Peso	0.311250	0.357782	19.108100
Brazil	Real	0.307836	0.353857	18.898400
Denmark	Kroner	0.134492	0.154598	8.256600
India	Rupee	0.018789	0.021598	1.153500
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.228963	0.263193	14.056300
Mexico	New Peso	0.083592	0.096089	5.131800
New Zealand	Dollar	0.518750	0.596303	31.846800
Norway	Kroner	0.120992	0.139080	7.427800
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015103	0.017361	0.927200
South Africa	Rand	0.115684	0.132979	7.102000
Korea	Won	0.000735	0.000845	0.045100
Sweden	Kroner	0.109167	0.125488	6.701900
Syria	Pound	0.020713	0.023810	1.271600
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025326	0.029112	1.554800
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000545	0.000627	0.033500

Telecom firm ...

From page B3

acted in the 1930s.

Under current NTC regulations, WiFi could not be deployed within the service areas of power distribution firm Manila Electric Co. as the 2.4-gigahertz frequency band to which WiFi belonged was currently being used by the Lopez-led firm for internal communications.

WiFi is a high-frequency wireless local access service that enables Internet access in certain "hotspots," or areas covered by a Wi-Fi provider's signal. Coverage is provided with the use of access points or equipment that are linked to the operator's Internet-connected central office.

However, the regulatory body has yet to issue a new directive. It has scheduled a public consultation regarding WiFi on July 17 to give stakeholders a chance to air their views on the matter.

Prohibition of commercial WiFi deployment will likely hit Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Southern Luzon.

Globe has been actively deploying wireless hotspots all over the country since May.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Visayas users asked: Pay higher power rates

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ELECTRICITY consumers in the Visayas have to accept the need to pay more or they face the more expensive problem of a power crisis, a top energy official said.

"The choices in the next few months will be either to pay for slightly higher prices for electricity that would actually serve the people or to have no electricity at all," said the official who declined to be identified.

An energy expert and former government official explained that "pricing signals" were needed to entice investments into new power plants. This can be done in the short term for the Visayas which needs small power facilities, the expert said.

The energy official said the government will launch this month an education campaign on the power rates starting with Panay, Negros and Cebu.

"Part of the challenge (in the efforts to reform the electricity industry) is the understand what fair pricing is," he added. "We are trying to tell people that electricity is not cheap and it is not free, and if we want it 24 hours a day, somebody has to come up with the investment and somebody has to pay for that."

The source said the power crisis had begun in Panay and would spread to neighboring islands within the next four years.

He said better rates for power producers as well as the passage of a law granting a transferrable franchise for the country's transmission system are needed.

"Clearly, the system is starting to show signs of wear and tear and we have to upgrade it," he said.

The source said the government could lose about $1 billion or half of the projected revenues from the privatization of the national transmission system if a law providing the franchise for this was not passed soon.

The official made the statement amid a foreseen delay in the privatization as interested investors deferred an inspection of the National Transmission Corp.'s $2-billion assets.

MRTC threatens to block railway interconnection

By Abigail L. Ho

EDSA MRT-3 proponent Metro Rail Transit Corp. had threatened to block interconnection of the existing railway with the Edsa MRT 3 phase 2 if the contract would be awarded to an entity other than itself.

This was revealed Friday by Department of Transportation and Communications Assistant Secretary Robert Castanares who added in a statement that the DOTC will exercise appropriate "legal mechanisms" to ensure that the existing Edsa MRT-3 will be interconnected with the 5.1-kilometer MRT-3 phase 2.

"We have legal mechanisms that will compel MRTC to connect. Besides, it will be much more favorable to them legally and commercially. It will increase their ridership. Honestly, I do not see the connection as a problem," he said.

The Department of Justice had earlier ruled that the supplemental agreement between the MRTC and the DOTC in 1999 for the Edsa MRT-3 extension project had already lapsed and should therefore be subjected to a public bidding.

Another DOJ ruling stated that a Swiss challenge procedure would have to be followed for the railway extension project. The MRTC had filed a motion for reconsideration regarding this ruling.

A Swiss challenge allows other interested entities to make better offers than the original proponent, and also gives the original proponent a chance to match the offer. It is one way of having an unsolicited proposal for a build-operate-transfer project like the Edsa MRT-3 challenged by other bidders.

Castanares said that until the DOJ issued a final opinion on the matter, the DOTC would be preparing to put the railway extension project up for open bidding.

The terms of reference for the bidding are currently being prepared.

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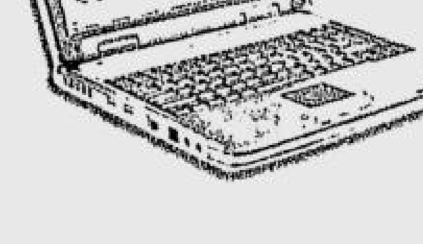

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CDO-Foodsphere: Doing great at 28

FROM a backyard *tocino* and *longganiza* venture that eventually got registered as a cottage industry capitalized at P5,000 in 1975 and incorporated in 1981, CDO-Foodsphere Inc. has become a respectable key player in the local food industry.

It celebrated its 28th anniversary June 25 with week-long activities anchored on the theme "Doing Great at 28".

Named after its founder Corazon Dayro Ong, a nutritionist-dietitian by profession who developed the thriving meat-processing enterprise, CDO-Foodsphere has etched a reputation among Filipino households as the maker of affordable quality food products that continuously innovates to ensure consumers get the best nutrition from the food they eat.

"All I had in mind was to serve nutritious food affordable to the greater majority of the people. It was the farthest thing on my mind that from all our efforts there would rise someday a CDO brand of processed food," she says.

Now a byword among Filipino households for its CDO hams, well-loved Bibbo! Hotdogs, karne norte, and other affordable processed meats, the company has also diversified into other processed foods including canned fish, sweet preserves and even purified drinking water. It ultra-modern processing plant in Paso de Blas, Valenzuela City, considered as the heart and soul of its operation, has been rated the Best Meat Plant in the country under the "AAA" category for three consecutive years, from 1999 to 2001 by the Department of Agriculture-National Meat Inspection Commission.

The technoplant is capable of churning out a hundred metric tons of assorted frozen meats and about 5,000 cases of canned products daily.

The technoplant sits on a 2.5-hectare property with its cutting-edge equipment and production techniques attesting to the company's firm commitment to give the Filipino consumers the best processing technology and a company they could be proud of.

Filipino consumers have reciprocated CDO-Foodsphere's initiatives by recently elevating the company to the Hall of Fame by the Consumers Union of the Philippines. The Hall of Fame award by the CUP cites the company as the outstanding meat processor in the country for five straight years, from 1999 to 2003.

CDO-Foodsphere is not just a company that satisfies the hunger for food, it is also about nourishing business partnerships with its thousands of distributors and business partners all over the country.

THE EXECUTIVE committee members of CDO-Foodsphere Inc recently held a company exhibit in Valenzuela City that highlighted the 28th anniversary celebration with the theme 'Doing Great at 28'. The firm, now considered a key player in the food industry, was founded by nutritionist-dietitian Corazon Dayro Ong on June 25, 1975.

DEALER OF THE YEAR

Sharp Philippines Corporation's (SPC) top dealers for 2003 were honored in the company's recent Annual Dealer's Convention in Makati City. The Dealer of the Year, Abenson, Inc., represented by Winston Lim (3rd from right), poses with Sharp officers (from left) Kazuhisa Kamiya, SPC Senior Vice President and General Administration Group General Manager; Masatoshi Fujiki, Chairman and CEO for ASEAN Operations, Sharp Corp.; Shigeo Kashimi, SPC President and General Manager; Koji Domoto, SPC Assistant Vice President and Domestic Sales Division Manager; and Jun Saluria, SPC assistant Vice President and Regional Sales Manager for VisMin. Sharp is the Philippines' market leader in sales of color TVs, washing machines and karaokes.

'Charlie's Angels' goes full throttle at SM

THE "CHARLIE'S Angels" sequel went full throttle at the SM Supermalls as it celebrated the adventures of Cameron Diaz, Drew Barrymore, and Lucy Liu with exciting and action-filled activities. Ongoing until July 15, the promotion mixes fashion, self-defense, partying, and movies.

The fun began with the premiere of "Charlie's Angels 2-Full Throttle" at the SM Megamall. Moviegoers packed the lobby to get a glimpse of their favorite celebrities. These included TV host/model Angel Aquino, MTV's Rod Nepomuceno, hard court heartthrobs Alvin Patrimonio and Don Allado, broadcast journalist Jay Sonza, MTV VJ Jo Hann, and film director Joel Lamangan.

Also seen enjoying the movie were Gladys Reyes, Lander Vera Perez with wife Regine Tolentino, Almira Muhlach, Giselle Sanchez, Rizah Peralta, Maricar de Mesa, Jenny Miller, Jacqueline Jose, and Anna Capri.

The action literally went to the streets during the Charlie's Angels Street Party held at the Megastrip B. The crowd loved "Full Throttle Fashion Fusion", Genevieve Gozum's fashion show featuring the Charlie's Angels inspired clothes, and the music of the Extraordinary People's Band.

The "Full Throttle Fashion Fusion" was held July 6 at SM City Manila, on July 8 at Cagayan de Oro, July 12 at SM Supercenter Sucat, July 13 at SM City North-Edsa, July 14 at SM City Iloilo, and July 15 at SM City Cebu. All shows begin at 4 p.m.

Angel wannabes can also get a piece of the action in Charlie's Angels Fun Training Academy. These include a target shooting area where one can try his or her shooting skills, as well as interactive demos on self-defense by Shaolin Hung Fut Ku Philippines.

Get some tips about Kung Fu fighting forms in demonstrations, which develop proper balance, posture, sharpness, and sharpness of reflexes, Mantis Dragon Forms that develop sequence memory and precise movements, and Chi-Kung, that develops hand pressure. Likewise, learn self-discipline and practical self-defense through the Mantis Dragon way, and internal and external strength through Tai-Chi. There will also be acupuncture demonstrations during the training.

The Fun Training Academy demos happened July 1 and 2 at SM City Pampanga, July 4 at SM City Fairview, July 5 at SM City Bicutan, and will be scheduled on July 10 and 11 at SM City North Edsa.

"Charlie's Angels 2-Full Throttle" is now showing at all SM Cinemas.

Biggest showcase of CSR in RP on

THE LEAGUE of Corporate Foundations and the Trisectoral Group on Poverty Reduction present CSR Expo 2003 from July 9 to 11, in celebration of this year's 4th Corporate Social Responsibility Week with the theme "Ka Partner Ka!" Join this one-of-a-kind event and be part of a growing advocacy to alleviate poverty and be socially responsive members of society.

Don't miss out on the biggest and most relevant gathering of private companies, government agencies and civil society groups in the country as they come together to partner in the task of social development in the Philippines. At least 100 organizations from the public and private sectors and non-government organizations are expected to take part in this three-day event that will showcase both individual and co-sponsored initiatives in the areas of educational assistance, environmental care, delivery of basic health and human services, arts and culture, livelihood generation and entrepreneurial development.

Be a partner. Join and share your experiences with fellow CSR practitioners and potential beneficiaries. Connect with the public through an exhibit. Take part in the plenary sessions, roundtable discussions and workshops on a wide variety of topics. Listen to an assembly of respected practitioners of corporate citizenship and social well being (DepEd Secretary Edilberto de Jesus, DENR Secretary Elisea Gozun, Ayala Corp.'s Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, Petron Corp.'s Nicasio Alcantara, Shell Philippines' Eliseo Santiago, Mirant Philippines' Edgardo Bautista, Lopez Group's Fil Alfonso and PLDT's Manuel Pangilinan, among others). President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will formally open the event.

Mark it on your calendars. It's three exciting days of valuable learning , opportunities for partnership and an entire marketplace of ideas to alleviate poverty and support national development-all under one venue. Make a date to join us at the Philippine International Convention Center. For details, call LCF at 892-9189, 892-9084, 894-1979, or 894-0400.

Building faith communities

THE CAMPUS Ministry of the Ministry for Youth Affairs of the Archdiocese of Manila, in celebration of its 25th anniversary and in partnership with the Jesuit Music Ministry, is conducting an inter-school songwriting contest. "Himig Kabataan Para sa Diyos at Bayan" is a competition of original musical compositions open to all college students in Metro Manila with the theme "Building Faith Communities".

Ten finalists shall be chosen from among the entries to compete in the competition's awards event on Aug. 9 at the University of Sto. Tomas Auditorium, Manila. Each finalist shall receive a cash prize of P5,000 and a trophy. The top three songs will receive P25,000 (first prize), P15,000 (second) and P10,000 (third), and will be recorded in a future album of the Jesuit Music Ministry.

"The contest not only aims to determine a theme song for the Campus Ministry but to promote the value of liturgical and inspirational music as integral element of meaningful public worship and growth in the faith of the young," said Msgr. Vicente D. Bauson, Archdiocesan Director of the Campus Ministry and chair of the event. He further explained "the competition aims to discover the musical talents and nurture the craft of the young, starting with this project."

The judges will be established liturgical/religious composers headed by Fr. Manoling Francisco SJ. The event will be highlighted by the participation of the young people from the parish, campus, dormitory, organizations and movements and invited celebrity artists.

Total announces new corporate name

TOTAL Philippines Corp., formerly TotalFinaElf Philippines, has launched its new corporate name and logo.

"With the change in our name and image, we are reinforcing our strength as an industry player that's committed to supply our customers with high quality products and superior services," Total president and managing director Jeff Attwood said.

The new name and logo follows the successful merger of TotalFina and Elf Aquitaine, and the decision of the parent oil company's shareholders to adopt one name to represent the organization.

Attwood said the new corporate identity represents the company's consistent thrust to supply energy needs in an innovative and sustainable way. It also reflects Total Group's values of openness, dynamism and respect for other people's cultures.

"The new trademark capitalizes on the strong international reputation of Total as a 50-year-old brand whose familiar and friendly image is one of its strongest assets," he said.

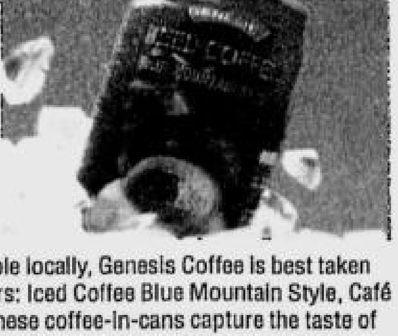
He added that the word "total" represents three vital characteristics of the company: "global", reflecting the worldwide scale of its business activity, "sum total", referring to human diversity and pluralism of the company, and "entirety", showing Total's commitment across the energy chain at the service of its customers.

The spherical symbol of the new Total logo represents the world and the international dimension of the business, while the interlacing of the colored curves suggests the many energies and the diversity of the world. Its rounded and light typography, on the other hand, reflects dynamism and accessibility.

Total is the world's fourth largest international oil and gas company with operations covering the entire oil and gas chain-from exploration and downstream production to trading, shipping, refining and marketing, including chemicals. It operates in more than 100 countries in five continents.

ProductFiles

Chill out with coffee



COFFEE is traditionally served hot, but in recent years there has been an added twist to coffee drinking, especially among the young. Worldwide, it has been the trend to drink flavored ice-cold coffee in cans that are usually available in specialty coffee houses and convenience stores or supermarts.

The Pinoy coffee drinker now has one more option when drinking coffee-Genesis Coffee in cans. Now available locally, Genesis Coffee is best taken chilled. It comes in three flavors: Iced Coffee Blue Mountain Style, Café Cappuccino and Café Glace. These coffee-in-cans capture the taste of coffee served in specialty coffee houses, but are cheaper and can be had "on the go." Genesis Coffee is available in the following outlets: Unimart in Greenhills, Landmark Supermarket in Makati, the Makati Supermart and in selected branches of Seaoil Palamig Stations and Total Le Boutique.

Sharp creates largest company-owned service network

SHARP Philippines Corp. (SPC) now has the largest company-owned after-sales service network in the Philippines, with a total of 31 SPC-owned service centers operating nationwide. This was announced by Sharp Philippines Service Corp. (SPSC) president Ernesto F. Rendon during the company's recent annual dealers' convention in a Makati City hotel. From 26 service centers in April last year, SPSC has added one in Luzon, three in the Visayas and one in Mindanao.

Rendon said SPSC's promotional activities such as its "house-to-house" campaign, giving free check-ups and cost estimates, giving away a souvenir item after repair of an out-of-warranty unit, extending the standard three-month warranty to four months and rolling back labor charges "considerably increased the number of households served and made the company closer to its customers." Rendon added that the realignment of SPSC's parts warehouse into a separate department with the function of forecasting, warehousing and distributing parts to service centers all over the Philippines has resulted into "a more efficient and aggressive support system."

In 1999, Sharp Philippines's service division was spun off into SPSC to create a more dynamic organizational structure to better serve Sharp customers' needs.

STERLING BEST PAPER MANUFACTURER

Sterling Paper Products Enterprises Inc. has proven that it is, indeed, the number one maker of quality paper products as testified by the recognition it received from the recently concluded 18th Annual Parangal ng Bayan and National Consumers Excellence Awards for being the most outstanding paper products manufacturer. Being one of the top award-giving bodies, Paraggal ng Bayan Foundation pays tribute to companies, services, products and personalities that offer best value-for-money to consumers. This year is the Foundation's first time to honor a paper products company. Shown, from left, are Vicki Dizon of the Parangal ng Bayan Foundation, Philip Tan, AVP-marketing (3rd from left) and Gerry Lim, EVP-marketing of Sterling Paper, during the awarding rites May 24.

PDIC, UCPB to sign deal on relief package

By Elena R. Torrijos

STATE-OWNED Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. is scheduled to sign today an agreement providing a P20-billion financial assistance package to United Coconut Planters Bank.

In an interview Saturday, PDIC president Ricardo Tan said that the package included the PDIC's purchase of P13 billion worth of UCPB's non-performing assets.

The deal on NPAs involves the outright purchase of P8 billion worth of assets. Other assets worth P5 billion will be bought back by UCPB after 10 years.

Tan said the purchase of the NPAs will help clean up the balance sheet of UCPB and provide the bank with P7 billion to P8 billion in additional capital.

UCPB's capital prior to the signing of the agreement today is way below the requirements of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

In order to bring UCPB's capital up to the required BSP levels, the PDIC will also provide P2 billion in tier-two capital by buying subordinated 10-year notes issued by UCPB.

Tan said that P5 billion in previous liquidity assistance to UCPB would be converted into a 10-year secured loan at 5-percent interest.

The loan would be converted further into tier-two capital once the bank raised enough tier one capital by becoming profitable based on its business plan.

Meanwhile, sources said that the government, which has appointed representatives to the board of UCPB, would change the bank's bylaws to make the president of the bank the chief executive.

UCPB's corporate charter names the bank chair also as chief executive. The bank's president also serves as chief operating officer.

Among those reportedly considered for the post of UCPB president and chief executive are UCPB executive vice president Andrew Alcid and former Bank of America country manager for the Philippines Jojo Querubin.

Tire firm expands Clark factory

By M. V. Remo

YOKOHAMA Rubber Co. Ltd., one of the world's major tire manufacturers, has invested 2 billion yen for the expansion and upgrading of its operations in Clark Field, Pampanga.

With the expansion, Yokohama Tire Philippines Inc. hopes to boost its sales by 30 percent this year to $10 million from about $7 million last year, said Takashi Sugimoto, Yokohama managing director for overseas business.

Yokohama Tire Philippines is presently producing 2 million tires yearly. It now targets to raise its production to 2.5 million, 90 percent of which is geared for exports.

Its export markets include Europe, the Middle East and the Asean region. More than 50 percent of its exports are sold in the European market.

Yokohama has started producing the 16-inch, high-performance tires.

The company used to produce mostly standard tires, which are used for passenger cars.

The company recently launched the AVS decibel, a new product intended mainly for the high-end market.

According to Sugimoto, one of the reasons Yokohama decided to push through with the expansion of its Philippine operations was the perceived improvement in the business climate in the Philippines. He said the infusion of capital for the company's expansion was made immediately after a court case involving a dispute between the management and labor union was decided in favor of Yokohama.

Sugimoto said the labor-management dispute involved the laying off of 70 employees.

He said the favorable court ruling convinced the company that the climate here was starting to get friendlier to businessmen.

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QUEZON CITY

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2BR W/GARAGE 8316108 M-F

QUEZON CITY

25 Malambing UP Vill QC 2BR 2TB 921-6367

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5 Storey Warehse Bldg 752-758 Del Pan St Binondo Mla, P60T 1st Flr, 2nd Flr / P40T 3rd Flr, 4th Flr Cell 0919-6312161

HLCRST PSG LEASE NR EDSA SHAW & C5 202M² 6321739

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2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

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STRATEGIC DIRECT MARKETING: ONE-ON-ONE OPPORTUNITIES WITH CONSUMERS
July 22, 23 & 25, 2003, 1:00 - 6:00 P.M. (Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday)
ACCEED-AIM Conference Center, Makati City

SEMINAR PROGRAM

Day 1, July 22 (Tuesday)

1:00 to 1:30 p.m. **INTRODUCTION: Role of Direct Marketing in The Overall Marketing Plan** (Impact Of Direct Marketing In Today's Market, Role Of Direct Marketing In the Marketing Plan, Different Direct Marketing Strategies)

Speaker: Yayu Javier, Country Manager, MotivationAsia Philippines, Inc.

Session 1: 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. **DATABASE MARKETING: Treasure Hunting** (Database Set-Up & Warehouse, Mining & Profiling, Identifying Opportunities)

Speaker: Aditya Vir, Operations Manager, S&G Consulting, Inc.

Session 2: 3:45 to 5:30 p.m. **DIRECT MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS: Sales Returns From Direct Communications** (Direct Mail Planning, Effective Creativity For Direct Mails, Non-Traditional Mediums, Data and Investment Analysis)

Speaker: Paul Gotham, Managing Director, Regional Director S.E. Asia, Rapp Collins

5:45 to 6:00 p.m. **BRIEFING ON THE FINAL PROJECT**

Day 2, July 23 (Wednesday)

1:00 to 1:30 p.m. **LINK UP SESSION**

Session 3: 1:30 to 3:30 p.m **E-MARKETING: Using Technology To Strengthen Customer Relationships** (Web & E-Commerce' Competitive Edge In Marketing, Data Monitoring & Control, Marketing Effectivity)

Speaker : Martha Maranan, Marketing Manager for Servers, IBM Philippines

Session 4: 3:45 to 5:30 p.m. **IN-STORE MARKETING: The Last Push** (Merchandising and Sales Promotions, Data Collection, Feedback Analysis)

Speakers: Jayvee dela Fuente, General Manager, Act Media & Paul Fernandez, General Manager, Demo Power

5:30 to 6:30 p.m. **BRAINSTORMING**

Day 3, July 25 (Friday)

1:00 to 1:30 p.m. **LINK UP SESSION**

Session 5: 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. **VOC: Making It Work Both Ways** (Customer Information & Profiling, Telemarketing, Data Analysis)

Speaker: George Yang, Chief Executive Officer, SM I-Service

Session 6: 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. **LOYALTY & INCENTIVE MARKETING: Customer Value With Measurable Results** (Loyalty Marketing - Where it works best, Incentive Marketing - Performance Measurement & Rewards, Communications Strategy, Monitoring & Tracking, ROIs)

Speakers: Richard Eldridge, Chief Operations Officer, MotivationAsia Regional Offices & Odette Salazar, Group Director, MotivationAsia Philippines, Inc.

Session 6: 3:45 to 5:30 p.m. **PRESENTATION OF CASES/ SUMMATION**

For inquiries, please call the PMA Secretariat c/o Ms. Lydia Mariñas at 893-7127, 813-0466, 892-3144 or fax us at 892-3161, 893-8099 or email us at pma@philonline.com, ydianm@edsamail.com.ph

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of Manuel Villaflor Reyes had executed a deed of extrajudicial settlement of estate with waiver of rights on April 3, 2002 and acknowledged the same before Notary Public Jose Augusto Salvacion for and in the City of Lucena, Philippines and bearing Doc. No. 330; Page No. 67; Book No. 31; Series of 2002 of his notarial register
(PDI-June23,30&July 7,2003)

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25 June 2003

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The City Government of Olongapo invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for furnishing the necessary labor, materials, equipment and services for the PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL SERVICE WARDS AND OFFICES AT JAMES L. GORDON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, Brgy. Asinan, Olongapo City. The project calls for the construction of a three-storey building that would have a total floor area of 655.20 square meters with only the first two floors fully completed. The approved budget for the contract to be bid is P8.0 Million from the local fund.

Interested bidders classified and registered with the Inter-Agency Committee on Registration and Classification of Contractors as at least "Medium A" on Building and prequalified by the Local PBAC are eligible to bid for this project. Experience on related project is necessary.

Pre-C forms shall be made available to contractors classified above at the PBAC Secretariat, City Planning and Development Office upon submittal of Letter of Intent and latest PCAB License on **July 10, 2003** at the Office of the PBAC Chairman, Office of the City Mayor, 2nd floor City Hall, Olongapo City. Prospective bidders are required to bring original copy of Contractor's License for verification/authentication purposes.

Deadline for submission of duly accomplished prequalification statements shall not be later than 5:00 p.m. of **July 24, 2003** to be submitted at the Office of the PBAC Chairman, 2nd floor City Hall, this city. The Local PBAC shall notify in writing all prequalified and pre-disqualified contractors.

Bid/Tender documents are available for issuance starting **August 6, 2003** at the City Planning and Development Office, 2nd floor City Hall to prequalified bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00) per set at the City Treasurer's Office.

All bids from prequalified contractors must be submitted to and received not later than 10:00 a.m. on **August 21, 2003** at the Office of the PBAC Chairman, this city after which all bids will be publicly opened.

A pre-bid conference will be conducted on **August 12, 2003**, at 10:00 a.m. at the City Council Session Hall, 2nd floor City Hall, Olongapo City.

All particulars relative to the pre-qualification, bid evaluation and awards of contract shall be governed by the provisions of P.D. 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended and other applicable rules and regulations.

The City Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the City.

(Sgd.) **CYNTHIA G. CAJUDO**
Acting City Mayor
and PBAC Chairman

(PDI--June 27 & July 7, 2003)

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY
PNOC Building VI, Energy Center
Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, M.M.
Tel. No.: 812-6209 / 840-1440

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY (PNOC) invites accredited Suppliers/Contractors to submit sealed bids for the following requirements:

Project Title	Pre-bid Meeting	Pre-Qual Deadline	Bid deadline
Messengerial Services	July 15, 2003 (2:00 PM)	August 1, 2003	August 12, 2003 (2:00 PM)
Custodial Services (Janitors/Plumber/Carpenter) for the PNOC Building	July 15, 2003 (2:30 PM)	August 1, 2003	August 14, 2003 (2:00 PM)
Custodial Services (Janitors) for the PNOC Bauan Housing-Batangas	July 15, 2003 (3:00 PM)	August 1, 2003	August 14, 2003 (2:00 PM)
Security Services (M.Mla. Properties)	July 17, 2003 (2:00 PM)	August 1, 2003	August 19, 2003 (2:00 PM)
Security Services (Provincial Properties)	July 17, 2003 (2:30 PM)	August 1, 2003	August 19, 2003 (2:00 PM)
Pest Control Services (PNOC Building)	July 22, 2003 (2:00 PM)	August 1, 2003	August 21, 2003 (2:00 PM)
Pest Control Services (PNOC Housing-Batangas)	July 22, 2003 (2:30 PM)	August 1, 2003	August 21, 2003 (2:00 PM)
Maintenance of Fire Protection System	—	August 1, 2003	August 26, 2003 (2:00 PM)
Maintenance of PABX System	—	August 1, 2003	August 28, 2003 (2:00 PM)
Supply of Purified Drinking Water/Water Dispenser	—	August 1, 2003	August 26, 2003 (2:00 PM)
Photocopying Services (Copier-Rental)	—	August 1, 2003	August 26, 2003 (2:00 PM)
Rental of Ornamental Plants	—	August 1, 2003	August 26, 2003 (2:00 PM)
One (1) year Internet Leased Line Connection Service	July 24, 2003 (2:00 PM)	August 1, 2003	August 28, 2003 (2:00 PM)
Shuttle Services (2 buses)	July 22, 2003 (3:00 PM)	August 1, 2003	September 2, 2003 (2:00 PM)
Canteen Concessionaire	July 24, 2003 (2:30 PM)	August 1, 2003	September 2, 2003 (2:00 PM)

Interested ACCREDITED parties may obtain bid forms upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per bid package from the PNOC - Property and Supply Management Division (PSMD) at the G/F of the PNOC Building.

Interested parties who are not yet accredited must first pass the pre-qualification process. Pre-qualification documents-checklist is available (M-F, 9am-3pm) at the said address upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00, which must be accomplished and submitted to PSMD on or before the set deadline. Failure to prequalify would render the concerned parties automatically disqualified from this bidding.

For purposes of clarifying issues, interested parties are encouraged to atted the pre-bid meeting as scheduled

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security equivalent to 10% of the total bid price but not to exceed ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00), secured from any one of PNOC's accredited bonding companies.

The PNOC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive formality therein or to accept such bids or to award any work that are considered most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) ATTY. PEDRO A. AQUINO, JR.
Senior Vice President
Legal, Admin & Estate Mgt. Services

(PDI--July 6 & 7, 2003)

NOTICE AND WARNING TO THE PUBLIC

The Public is hereby notified that our client, **MANAHAN COLLECTIONS**, is the authorized distributor of authentic **MICHAEL SCHUMACHER** leather goods and apparel for the Philippine market.

The Intellectual Property Office under the Department of Trade and Industry has accepted the application under application numbers 2719, 2720 and 0497 for the exclusive use, distribution and marketing of its product labels, logos and emblems, which it has used and is continuously using-Representation of these trademarks, is shown below:

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Unauthorized use by any person or entity of these trademarks or any colourable invitation thereof constitutes infringement and unfair competition for which the parties involved may be held criminally and civilly liable.

WARNING IS THEREFORE GIVEN to any person or entity involved in the unlawful use of our client's trademarks, and to anyone who abets, assists or cooperates in any way in said unlawful acts and practices to immediately **CEASE AND DESIST** from pursuing such fraudulent, unscrupulous, unlawful and illegal acts. Otherwise, we shall take all available legal actions and remedies to the fullest extent of the law to protect the rights and interest of our client.

(Sgd.) **JIMENO, JALANDONI & COPE**
LAW OFFICES
Counsel for MANAHAN COLLECTIONS
37th Floor Rufino Pacific Tower
6784 Ayala Avenue cor. V. A. Rufino St., Makati City

(PDI - July 7, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATONS
METROSTAR EXPRESS

INVITATION TO BID

The DOTC-MRT3 Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites all interested health care service providers to apply for pre-qualification to bid for the **PROCUREMENT OF THE HEALTH CARE SERVICE PROVIDER FOR THE HEALTH CARE AND MAINTENANCE BENEFITS OF DOTC-MRT3 EMPLOYEES** with an approved budget for the contract of **THREE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS & 100/100 (P3,450,000.00).**

Accreditation requirements can be available to interested health care providers on **29 June to 07 July 2003** upon payment of non-refundable fee of P100.00 to the Administrative Division, DOTC-MRT3 Depot office, North Avenue, Cor. EDSA, North Triangle, Quezon City. Submission of duly accomplished and notarized pre-qualification documents shall not be later than **14 July 2003.**

Bid documents and complete specifications are available for issuance on **22-24 July 2003** upon payment of P500.00, which is not refundable, and presentation of Notice of Invitation and Certificate of Accreditation.

The DOTC-MRT3 reserves the right to reject any or all of the bids proposals without offering any reason, waive any informality therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. This office, likewise, assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids nor does it guarantee that an award shall be made.

(Sgd.) **MARIO C. MIRANDA**
Acting General Manager and Chairman,
DOTC-MRT3 Bids and Award Committee

(PDI - July 7, 2003)

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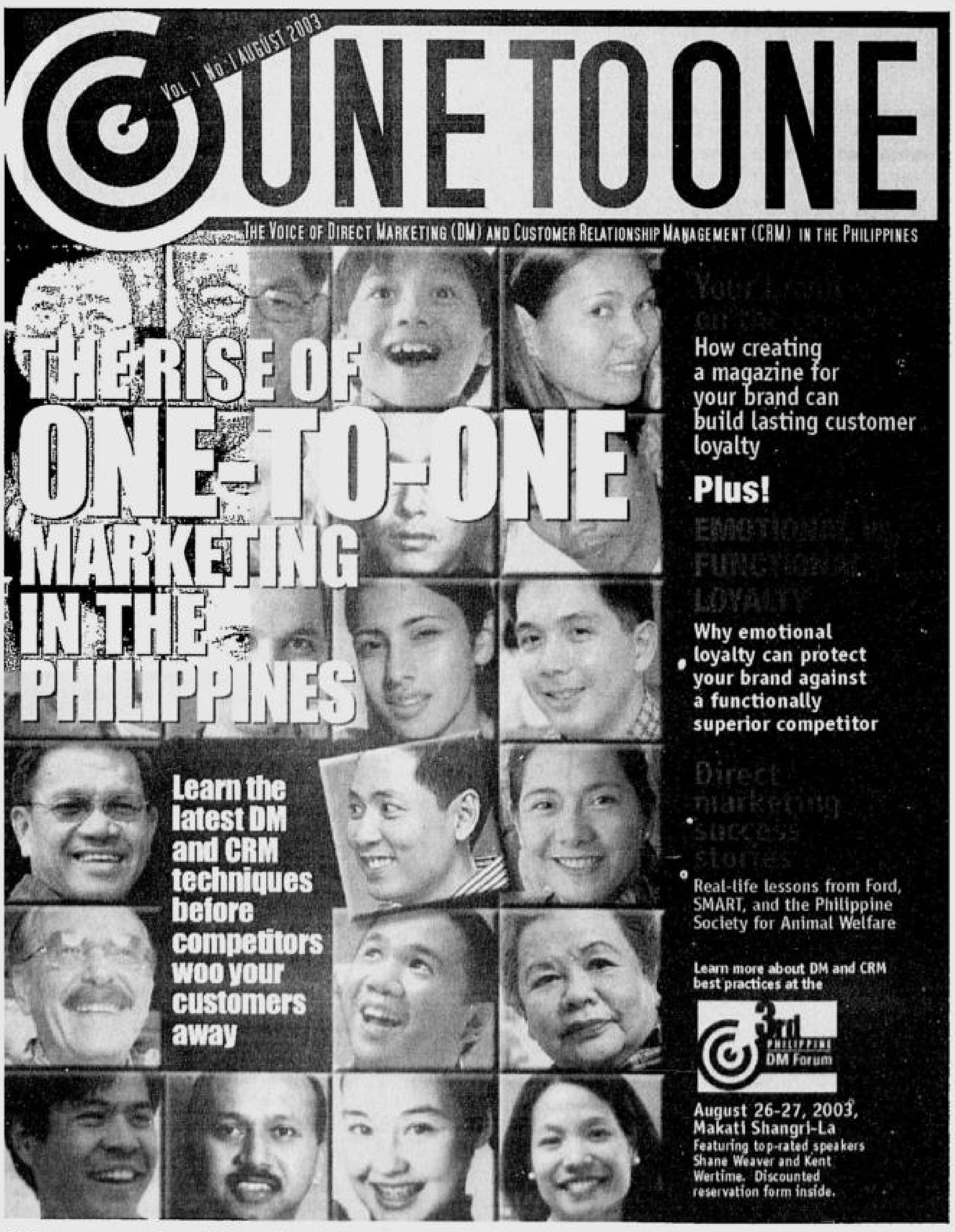
ONE TO ONE
VOL 1 NO 1 AUGUST 2003
THE VOICE OF DIRECT MARKETING (DM) AND CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT (CRM) IN THE PHILIPPINES
THE RISE OF ONE-TO-ONE MARKETING IN THE PHILIPPINES
How creating a magazine for your brand can build lasting customer loyalty
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ONE TO ONE: The Voice of Direct Marketing and Customer Relationship Management (CRM) in the Philippines will be launched today. Get it free now. Limited copies are available. Marketers who are interested in knowing more about relationship marketing, database marketing, direct response advertising, direct mail, viral marketing, SMS/text marketing, interactive marketing and everything else under direct marketing and CRM will want a copy of OneToOne magazine. To get a free copy, just e-mail the editor at dmforum@edsamail.com.ph or call 813-2732/03 and ask for Jenny or Fina. Only those who email their full name, title/position, company name, address, phone, fax will be sent the free copy. Limited copies are available, so send your request now. OneToOne is a joint venture, published by Summit Custom Publishing for Salt & Light Ventures, the creators and organizers of the Direct Marketing Forum.

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(Registration starts at 8AM)

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IN MEMORIAM

AFFECTIONATELY REMEMBERING ON
THE SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
DEATH OF OUR DEARLY BELOVED

Atty. Francisco (Tito) B. Santiago

10 October 1940 - 8 July 1996

We knew little that early morning of July 8, 1996
GOD was going to call your name,
In life we loved you dearly, in death
we do the same.
It broke our hearts to lose you,
You did not go alone; for part of us
went with you,
The day GOD called you home.
You left us peaceful memories,
Your love is still our guide;
and though we cannot see you,
You are always at our side.
Our family chain is broken,
And nothing seems the same;
But as GOD calls us one by one,
The CHAIN will link again.

The Holy Sacrifice of the mass shall be offered at the following churches:

Christ the King Parish Church, Green Meadows 6:00 p.m
Nuestra Sra. de Guia Church, Ermita, Manila 8:00 a.m.
Redemptorist Church, Baclaran, Parañaque 6:45 a.m.
Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish, BF Homes, Parañaque 7:00 p.m.
Philam Life Chapel, Ma. Orosa St., Manila 12:00 n.n.
St. Peter Parish, Commonwealth, Quezon City 12:00 n.n.
Nuestra Sra. Dela Estrada, La Vista, Quezon City 6:00 p.m.
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, San Juan 6:00 p.m.

A special mass will be offered on
Tuesday, July 8, 2003 at 4:00 p.m. at
Himlayan Pilipino Chapel, Novaliches, Quezon City

Our many thanks to all who keep him
in their memory
Elo, Chinky, Jonas, Jenny
Gina and Don and Cessie

Our Beloved Mother

Esther Cheong Gochu

"Cheong Kui Ying"

February 20, 1926 - July 5, 2003

The bereaved family

Husband : **Basilio Gochu** (deceased)
Children : **Evangeline & Jose Chua**
Olivia & Ernesto Co
Basilio Jr. & Sim-Sim
Johnson & Mary
Ven & Coco
Joey
Grandchildren : **Paul, Guilford, Aileen**
Patrick, Kim, Marco
Basil Jason, Sheena
Crystal, Oliver, Marjorie, Aaron
Paolo, Carlos, VR

Her body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz, Naguilian Road, Baguio City.
Interment will be at the Baguio Memorial Park on July 9, 2003 at 9:00 a.m.

MILAGROS BACTOL CRUZ

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
On July 4, 2003 at the age of 80.

Her remains lie in state at 7-Flame Street
Vic Mari Compound Baesa Q.C.

Interment will be on Thursday, July 10, 2003
after the 10:00 a.m. service at
the Eternal Gardens, Q.C.

**"For God so loved
the world,
that He gave His
only begotten Son,
that whoever
believes in Him
shall not perish
but have
everlasting life."**

John 3:16

DEATH NOTICES

MANUEL ARANETA y LEDESMA
Passed away on July 4, 2003
Cremation will be on Wednesday,
July 9, 2003 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass

ENCARNACION ANCHETA AVENA
Passed away on July 1, 2003
Interment will be on Tuesday,
July 8, 2003
after the 8:00 a.m. Mass
at La Funeraria Paz

ALFONSO R. BAUTISTA
Passed away at the age of 77
Interment will be on Tuesday,
July 8, 2003,
9:00 a.m. at the
Manila Memorial Park,
Dasmariñas, Cavite.

MAURO ABIOG LACUNA
Passed away on July 5, 2003
at the age of 78.
Interment will be on July 10, 2003
at the Loyola Memorial Park,
Marikina City, 9:00 a.m.

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Editor Leo Magno

RP government to oversee '.ph' domain name registry

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

THE INFORMATION Technology and E-commerce Council (ITECC) is scheduled to draft this week the implementing rules and regulations for the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) to oversee the domain registration of the ".ph" domain name, ITECC executive director Virgilio Peña told Infotech.

The ITECC is the country's highest authority on information technology and communications matters.

After more than a year of deliberations, the ITECC has decided to give the NTC the responsibility to regulate the registration of the ".ph" domain. An advisory body will also be created to help the NTC on matters and issues related to ".ph" domain administration, added the Peña.

In a separate interview, Joel Disini, administrator of the country code top-level domain (ccTLD) registry for the ".ph" domain, declined to comment on the issue until "I see what this is all about."

"I'm not aware of this decision. But it seems that they are passing the buck," Disini said.

The ".ph" domain registration is now being governed by Disini, who is also the chief executive of dotPH, the sole registry of the ".ph" domain in the Philippines.

Since last year, a technical working group headed by the National Economic Development Authority has been working on several options to resolve the administration of the ".ph" domain, Peña said.

One of the options proposed was to name an oversight policy board that would monitor the "performance" of dotPH as ccTLD registrar.

According to Peña, the technical working group handling this controversial issue has proposed several options on how to address the re-delegation of the ".ph" domain registration.

One of the options is for government to take over the ".ph" domain registry, essentially taking it away from Disini.

Peña noted that the government has not totally closed its doors to eventually taking over the ".ph" domain registration.

The ITECC has yet to come up with the specific guidelines on how the NTC would regulate the activities of dotPH within the month, Peña said.

Once the guidelines are created, the NTC is expected to resolve various issues including previous plans to sell ".ph" domain as a "phone" domain instead of the "Philippines" country domain, Peña said.

The issue of dotPH being the sole registry of the ".ph" domain will also be addressed, the executive added. Pricing issues related to the ".ph" domain are also expected to be resolved.

According to an online statement published in March 27, 2001, dotPH has supported the idea of creating a policy board that will assist in determining policy directions for the ".ph" domain.

Disini himself initiated efforts leading to such a body back in June 2000.

DotPH insisted, however, that the policy board should be a consultative body rather than a regulatory one. He added that the consultative body should accurately represent stakeholders from the local community and should be held accountable for their actions and the effect of these actions on the domain and those people who hold ".ph" domains.

DotPH has opposed moves to re-delegate control of the ".ph" domain to a new non-profit entity, saying that it was a step backward and would retard the growth of ".ph" as a domain.

Eastern Telecom eyes teleworking market

EASTERN Telecom has unveiled another "mass-market" Internet service targeting telecommuting workers, as the firm began eyeing consumers after having serviced corporations almost exclusively.

The new work@home service is a wholesale Internet dial-up service that lets several users use a single account to simultaneously connect to the Internet or access a corporate intranet.

The service is Eastern Telecom's alternative to dedicated dial-up services and digital subscriber line (DSL) technology, said Virgil Pedro, Eastern Telecom vice president for corporate sales and marketing. The service is only available in Metro Manila.

Early this year, the company introduced its "Go! Premium" prepaid Internet card product.

Pedro said the firm's prepaid card addressed the "premium" market, where he said connection quality mattered more than the quantity of time subscribers were given to access the Internet. Pedro said the card is for people who download lots of data.

For the next few years, Pedro said Eastern would remain focused on the corporate market, although he said the mass market offered attractive opportunities for telecommunication firms.

Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

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20 teams qualify for Wireless Challenge finals

TWENTY teams from 16 schools have qualified for the final round of the Wireless Challenge, a nationwide student computer programming competition.

The qualifiers, who moved on to the finals after an online qualifying round, will vie for the top three prizes in the last leg of the competition on July 26 at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel. Over P650,000 in cash and other exciting prizes await the brightest IT students and P150,000 for the schools they represent.

The 20 teams who won over 40 other teams are: Adamson University, AMA Computer College-Baguio (Team 1), AMA Computer College-Fairview, Asia Pacific College (Team 1), Ateneo de Davao University (Teams 1 and 2), Ateneo de Manila University (Teams 1 and 2), Ateneo de Naga University (Team 2), Baguio Colleges Foundation, Capitol University, Columban College (Team 1), Mapua Institute of Technology, Meralco Foundation Institute (Team 2), Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (Teams 1 and 2), Palawan State University, St. Paul University Philippines and UP Los Baños (Teams 1 and 2).

The competition was developed to showcase the IT skills and capabilities of the Filipino youth in the development of applications for wireless applications. It is organized by the European IT Service Center in collaboration with the German Development Corp. and the Philippine Internet Commerce Society.

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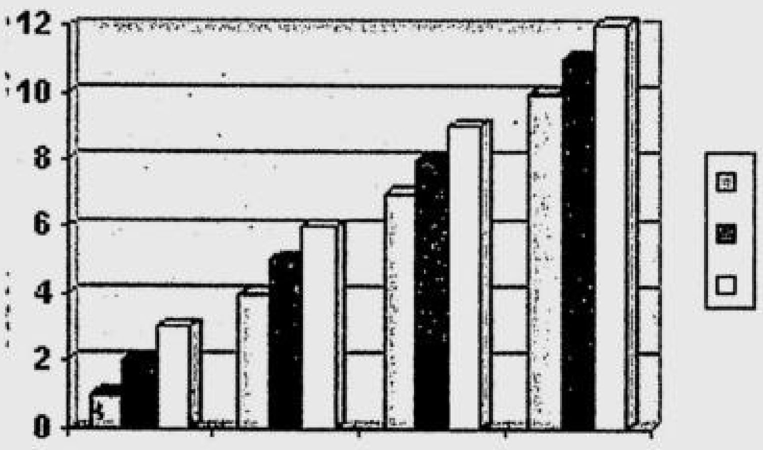

Convert Word tables to charts

By Jerry Liao

WANT to quickly transform your Microsoft Word tables into a chart? Here's how:

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Roco urges: Work on existing laws in creation of ICT dep't

FORMER Education Secretary Raul Roco said that groups lobbying for the creation of an information and communications technology department should work on existing laws rather than have Congress debate on whether or not the Philippines needs a separate agency to govern IT.

Roco acknowledged that the proposed Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) has its advantages. But it would take some time before Congress could pass a law creating it, he said.

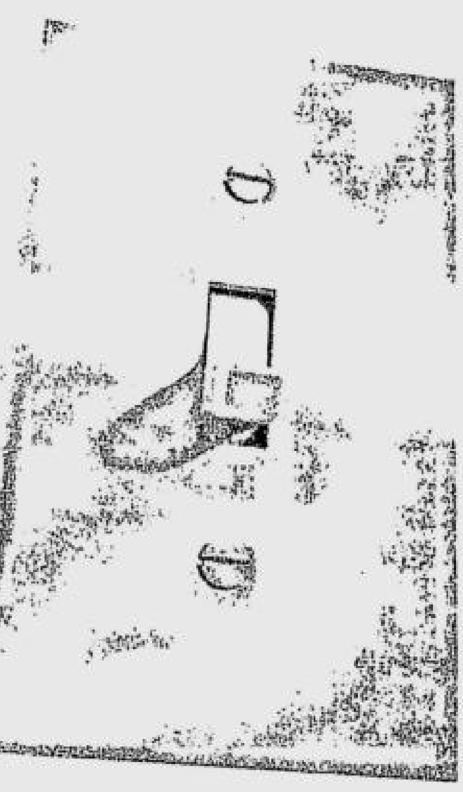
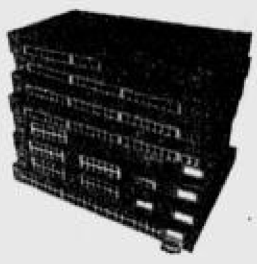
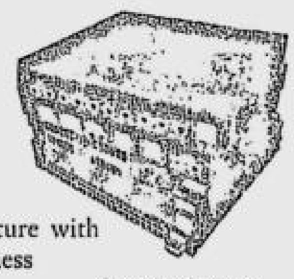
"I'm averse to asking Congress to create the ICT department. So let's use existing laws to create it because I don't want to debate in Congress about it," he said during a speech at the Philippine Computer Society congress.

He stressed that the country has so many laws that it does not need another to address the lack of a department overseeing ICT policies in government.

"Do we need a law to solve a certain problem? Indeed, the country is overbooked with laws," the former senator added.

Measures creating the DICT were first filed in 1992 at the House of Representatives. Over the years, debates on the new ICT department raged on but died down until two years ago when the proposal was revived.

Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

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HP exploring adoption of 'Cooltown' concept in Philippine pilot projects

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

HEWLETT-Packard Co. is looking at implementing in the Philippines this year a pervasive computing concept called "Cooltown" which is now live at Palo Alto and Singapore, a company official said recently.

According to Jermyn Wong, marketing development manager for emerging technologies at HP Philippines, the local subsidiary has initiated pilot projects of Cooltown concept in some local companies.

He said that the company has begun working with local independent service vendors in the development of various wireless applications which make use of the iPAQ handheld as part of the Cooltown concept.

These companies include FindMe (fleet management application), 3Com (wireless telephony), V-Tech Pacific (point-of-sale application),. and eScience (SMS application).

Wong said that the Cooltown concept is HP's vision of computing in the future. It combines various technology such as the Web, wireless appliances and Web applications to create an environment where humans interact with technology easily.

While HP's Cooltown concept seems like a utopian vision of computing in the future, Wong stressed that a portion of the whole Cooltown concept is now happening in the Philippines.

3Com in the Philippines, for instance, has transformed the iPAQ handheld into a "wireless telephone" using a wireless network as a point of connectivity.

HP is currently working with one of the biggest shopping centers in Makati with the goal of transforming the place into a Cooltown proof of concept, Wong added.

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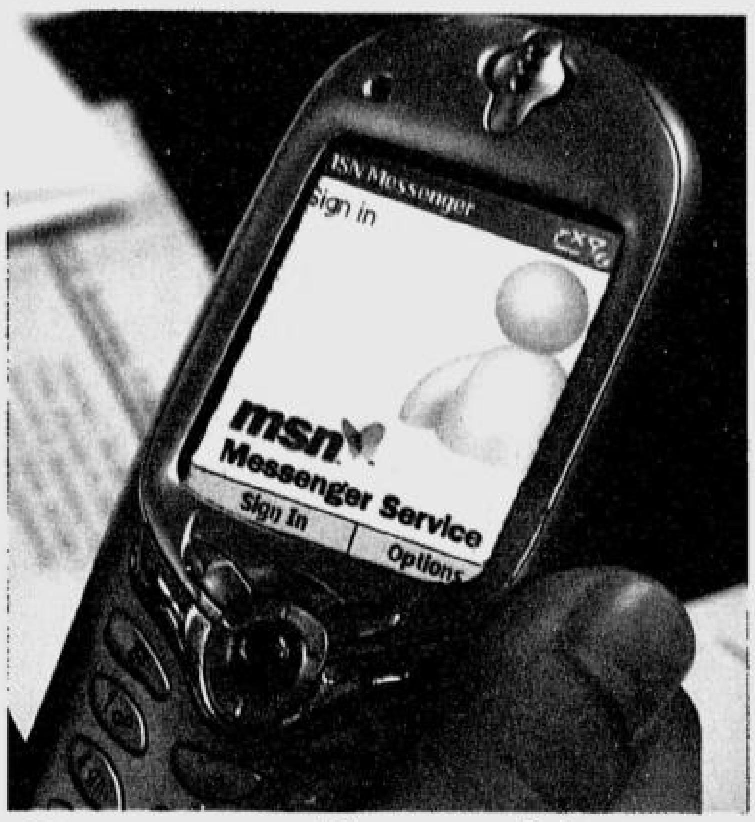


Smart battling hackers of its SmartPhone

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

SMART Communications is taking steps to address the recent practice of "unlocking" its "Amazing SmartPhone" to allow local subscribers to use the handset in a rival mobile phone network, a top official told Infotech.

Ramon Isberto, head of public affairs of Smart Communications, said the operator is aware of the practice. However, Isberto, he declined to comment on the specific steps the company is taking to stop the practice reportedly being perpetrated by independent groups in certain shopping centers in Greenhills, San Juan.

"I cannot discuss at this point (what we're going to do). In any case, I hope people would eventually realize it's not just the handset. The SmartPhone, in the long term, works best with our network," Isberto said.

Some independent retailers of handsets are now helping subscribers unlock the SmartPhone, allowing them to insert non-Smart SIM cards. Owners of the SmartPhone themselves have unlocked their handsets using software from the Internet.

The SmartPhone handset is the first Microsoft-powered mobile phone to launch in Asia.

Asked whether the practice of unlocking the SmartPhone violates the intellectual property of Smart, Isberto replied: "It does seem to be the highest form of flattery. But we're going to check this with our lawyers."

He also stressed that Smart is not encouraging this practice to sell more SmartPhone units in the Philippines.

"People bother to do this only if they like the phone," he said. "We really cannot prevent this practice."

Solon wants probe on mislabeled PC parts

SEN. Loren Legarda has urged a probe on the sale of fake computer components by unscrupulous merchants.

According to a resolution filed recently, Legarda urged the Senate committee on trade and commerce and the technology committee to conduct an investigation on the practice.

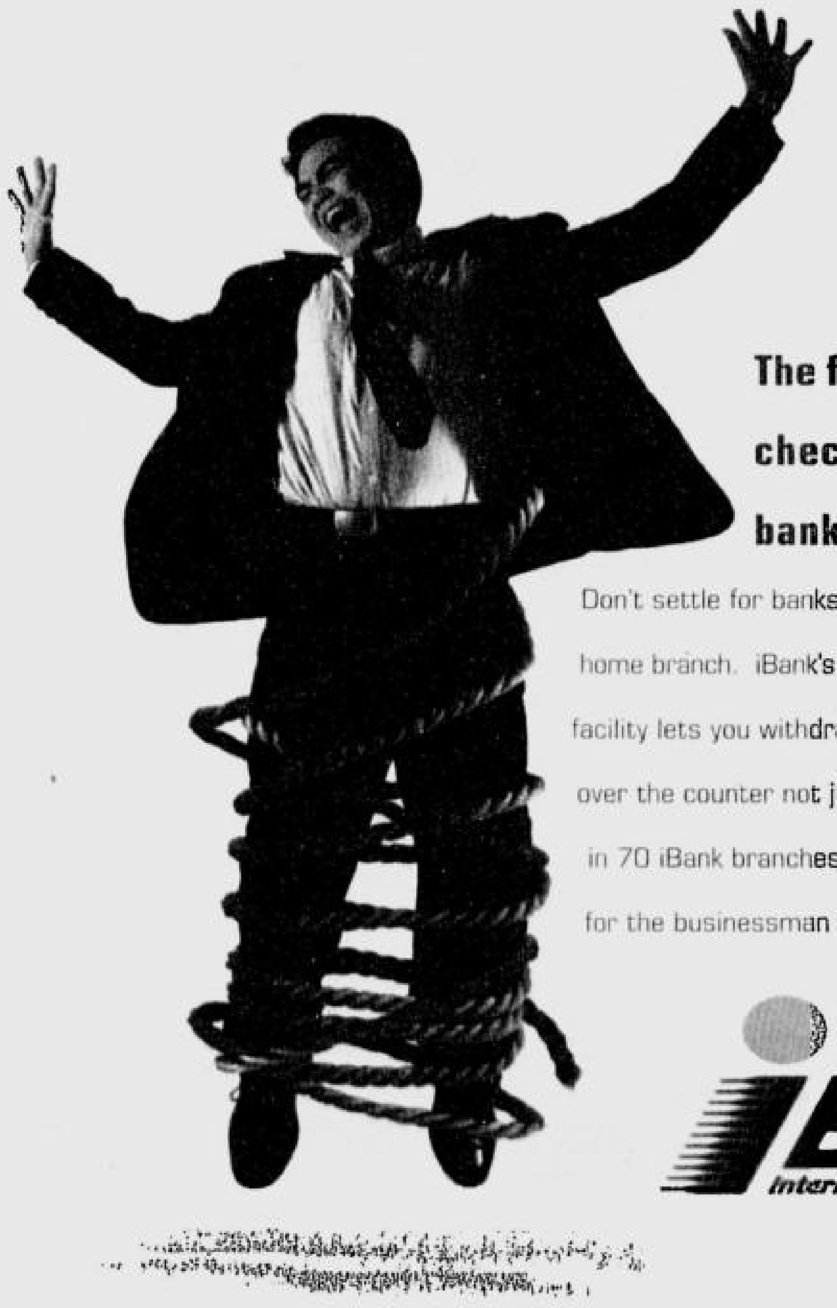
"The legislative inquiry is deemed urgent as the fraud will have a corresponding residual effect on business operations that are largely and wholly dependent on the use of computers," Legarda said.

Legarda claimed to have received reports that some computer components are being mislabeled with names and logos of top brands, allowing some local merchants to make more revenue.

Last week, a local distributor of the AMD computer processor belied reports that it has been selling mislabeled AMD chips. In a statement, Asiantech managing director Andy Te denied rumors that it was engaged in "deceptive and fraudulent practices," which involved selling mislabeled AMD Duron processors as AMD Athlon XP chips.

Te said the AMD Duron chips in question were directly soldered onto the motherboards manufactured by Elitegroup Computer Systems Co. Ltd.

Erwin Oliva



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BUSINESS Monday

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Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

TAKE A TEST TO FIND OUT

To go or not to go into exports

By Arlene Eleanor E. Liberal
Contributor, U.P. ISSI

WHICH manufacturer does not dream of selling in the international market?

There are a hundred good reasons for exporting including:

Expansion of the market. The firm will now have buyers in other countries and will not be limited to the local market.

Possibility of more profits. With more buyers, the chances of getting more profits are higher.

Reduction of dependence on the domestic market. When local sales are down, the export market can generate additional sales.

Utilization of excess production capacity. If the manufacturing capacity is more than what the domestic market can absorb, it is worthwhile to consider going into exports.

Generation of employment. As volume of production increases, more workers are needed; thus jobs are created in the community which in turn trigger more economic activities.

Maximization of local resources. Local materials, labor and supplies are likely used in producing the products and value is added once these are processed into finished products.

Generation of foreign currency for the firm and the country. If you sell to the US market, you will receive dollars, if you sell to Japan, then you will earn Japanese yen, if you sell to the European market, you earn the Euro. The taxes paid by the exporting firm will go to the coffers of the government which add income to our country.

Given these attractive prospects, the next question you will ask yourself is "Am I export-ready?"

Here is checklist to help you determine whether you are prepared to be an exporter. *(See "test" on Page B2-2.)*

The following will tell you more about the factors considered in this test.

EXPORTS
CAPITAL

Market criteria

Going into exports is similar to joining the Olympics or participating in an international beauty contest. You have to be a winner in the local market first. Surviving in the domestic market competition is an indication you have already put in place the necessary systems and procedures to be efficient, and the necessary linkages with suppliers and buyers, industry associations and government agencies to be competitive.

It is also important that you are active in the domestic market. In case the products for export are rejected by the foreign buyers, these can be reverted back to and sold in the domestic market. Without a strong domestic selling base, the losses from rejects would devastate you.

For a product to gain acceptance in the export market, it must have a distinctive feature that is in demand abroad. For some products, the foreign buyers provide the sample and specification of the products to be produced. For others, the local producer is required to present to the foreign buyers an array of samples from among which one or more would be selected.

Networking with industry associations and relevant government agencies will help a lot in marketing the products locally and abroad because industry associations hold or participate in trade fairs. The Department of Trade and Industry through the Center for International Trade, Expositions and Missions (CITEM) and the Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprises Development (BSMED), facilitates participation of SMEs in trade fairs by providing some subsidies to participants to reduce the cost of participation. Industry associations and relevant government agencies also conduct training programs and business fora that will help you cope with the competition.

Production criteria

In general, your production facilities must be able to meet the volume requirement of the export market. Products must be delivered on time for shipment in order to catch up with the season, and it must meet the international standard in production.

For example, exporters of furniture, baskets or banana chips must fill several container vans (40 feet) in one shipment and on a regular basis. Below the specified volume, the shipment cost will increase per unit. To protect the buyers, countries around the world have set up standards of quality for products. For food products, for example, the Food and Drug Administration has specified how much preservative can be tolerated, beyond which the product would be considered a health risk.

Wood-based products, on the other hand, must be kiln-dried or are otherwise liable to crack in the cold environment of the American or European markets. Lately, foreign buyers prefer to buy from firms with ISO certification—ISO 9000 for manufacturing and service firms and ISO 1400 for environment-friendly production system.

Financial criteria

The firm must have sufficient capital to go into export through its own equity contribution and through loans because exporting entails high costs. Producing the samples for foreign buyers already require investment. This is especially true for jewelry, handicraft and furniture items, where producers are expected to show dozens of samples before final orders are placed. When the orders come, additional funds are needed to produce the products and

TO GO/ B2-2

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Ask for Thunder Service at selected Toyota Service Centers today.

SAMPLE MENU PRICELIST (Parts and labor included)

CHANGE OIL & FILTER	
Corolla (Except Altis)	610-680
Corona	750
Camry (1996-2002)	715
Revo	710 - 1050
Tamaraw FX (Gasoline only)	710 - 730
Hi-Ace	985-1135
Hi-Lux	1135 - 1215

BRAKE PADS CHANGE	
Corolla / Corona (1989-1992)	1,110
Corolla 1992 up (Except Altis)	1,080
Camry / Corona EX Saloon, Exsior	1,680
Revo	1,580
Tamaraw FX	1,480
Hi-Ace	1,660
Hi-Lux	1,680

CLUTCH DISC REPLACEMENT	
Corolla (Except Altis)	3,235
Corona	3,405
Camry (1996-2002)	3,560
Revo	3,850
Tamaraw FX (Gas & Dsl)	3,660 - 4,880
Hi-Ace	4,795
Hi-Lux	4,070

WIPER (One Side)	BLADE w/ Rubber	RUBBER
All Models	270 - 295	170

Available for selected out-of-warranty Toyota vehicles at Toyota Manila Bay, Toyota Otis, Toyota Balintawak-North, Toyota Pasong Tamo, Toyota Shaw-Ortigas, Toyota Alabang, Toyota Quezon Avenue, Toyota Cabanatuan, Toyota Baguio, Toyota Dagupan & Toyota Cagayan de Oro.

Philippines: Rising high tech exporter

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

THE finding should raise some eyebrows and some pride.

Newsweek (June 23, 2003) quotes a World Bank study on export opportunities to China. The research says that South Korea's advantage lies in low-tech exports like steel, Japan's is in mid-tech machinery, and "biggest surprise of all, the Philippines' are in high tech."

Actually made in RP

The piece further quotes Jaffy Jurado, technical officer with the Semiconductor and Electronic Industries trade association of the Philippines.

"Not a lot of people know this, but we make a lot of the basic building blocks that go into remote controls, phones, watches, and other things thatare made in China," says Jurado.

What's going on? Different reports echo the same conclusion: the Philippines is becoming the place to be for hi-tech manufacturing. Investments in the information and communication technology (ICT) sector rose by 240 percent in the first quarter of 2003.

Deep manpower pool

Behind the trend is a rich human resource base for information technology jobs.

The Philippines has a 94-percent literacy rate and a large pool of college students. She also has the edge in English proficiency, being the 3rd largest English speaking nation in the world. In Asia, the country's supply of IT workers is second only to that of India—which has a population of 1 billion.

Research firm the Meta Group ranked the Philippines No. 1 in the world as regards knowledge workers. Its Cyber Atlas of 2000 put the Philippines ahead of 47 other countries, including the United States, Australia, France, Canada and India.

PHILIPPINES
H I G H
T E C H!
OTHER COUNTRIES

From coconuts to computer parts

The Philippines is among just a handful of nations that have enacted a sweeping Electronic Commerce Act. The government is now pushing the full computerization of its operations. For example, procurement will be done electronically.

But what about the lack of telecom infrastructure? The government has been cutting bandwidth costs. Consider the T-1 line, the electronic equivalent of a massive oil pipeline. It conducts around a million bits of information per second, and it is used to link the Philippines to the United States. In 2001 using it cost $30,000 per month. The price then dropped to P8,000 by March 2002 and should be half that amount by now.

These advantages make the Philippines more competitive in the ICT scene.

Filipino workers are moving up the value chain in electronics. Twenty years ago Filipinos in export processing zones did menial jobs, plugging the right chips into the right holes. The value-added then was only 5-8 percent. Today the ratio has shot up to some 30 percent, with local design, testing, and manufacturing.

Just decades ago, the top Philippine exports were coconut chips. Now they are computer chips. Microelectronics account for even up to 75 percent of the nation's export revenues.

Pentium IV

Amazing but true: 30 percent of Intel's global revenue comes from products manufactured in the Philippines. Further, the most advanced Intel technology will come to the company's factories in the Philippines, according to the firm's president.

Many computers use the Pentium IV chip manufactured by Intel corporation. Around the globe, there are only three Intel factories that make the Pentium IV chip—and one of them is found in the Philippines.

Craig Barrett, chair of Intel has said, "We've been here 23 years, we've been through earthquakes, volcano eruptions, coup d'états, changes in environment, but our product gets shipped in the right quality, and on time."

Toshiba is another example. The electronics giant has shut down its laptop manufacturing factories in the United States and has moved them to the Philippines. There is much confidence in the quality of the products. In fact, the laptops made here go directly to their distributors without passing through quality control in the States.

Cell phone chips

The cell phone is very common in the country, and each unit contains a DSP chip, which converts sound into digital signals. In 2001 Nokia sold 150 million cell phones to the world market. Each of these units contains a DSP chip made by Texas Instruments in Baguio.

"We are very bullish about the industry primarily because of the success of the wireless gadgets," says Norberto Viera, president of the Philippine unit of Texas Instruments. His company produces 95 percent of all the DSP chips for Nokia.

"As a matter of fact, the demand for these products is so hot that in our factory back in Baguio we are running at full capacity" says Viera. He adds that their turnover for 2003 should rise to at least $2.3 billion.

That equals the total exports for the garments industry, the nation's second largest export category.

A little more time, global marketing and local faith should power the Philippines to charge through the world highway of high technology. *Comments to <darroyo@philonline.com>*

Executive movements in Avon announced

MOGAR

FRANCO

DY BUNCIO

AVON, the global direct selling and beauty company recently announced significant movements within the top-level leadership of Avon Philippines.

Jose Mari Franco has decided to retire as Area Vice President for Southern Asia and President of Avon Cosmetics, Inc. effective July 31, 2003. Franco , however, has agreed to serve Avon on a consultancy basis until December 31, 2003. As a consultant, he will drive business transformation projects, provide strategic counsel to the Philippines and Malaysia on new market opportunities. Franco's 22 years of committed and outstanding service to the company is behind Avon Philippines' success story, helping it grow from a small market player into the biggest direct selling and beauty company in the country, and one of Avon's major stronghold in sales, market share and profit in the region. Furthermore, under Franco's leadership, Avon Philippines won the coveted Flame Award in 1996, the highest honor given to an Avon country in recognition of its strong sales performance and business growth. In 2002, Avon Philippines was the sixth largest Avon market in the world.

As part of Avon's plans to drive stronger growth initiatives in the region, Avon Cosmetics, Inc. General Manager Malu Dy Buncio was appointed as Executive Director for Regional Business Development Asia Pacific effective May 1, 2003. Buncio's track record of solid performance in Avon for 18 years makes her the perfect candidate for this new position. Prior to her appointment as Avon Cosmetics, Inc. GM in 1999, Dy Buncio served as President Director for P.T. Avon Indonesia and was significantly responsible for the company's remarkable growth despite the Asian Crisis in 1997. For this feat, she was the recipient of the Chairman's Pathfinder Award for "Managing Through Political Crises" in 1998.

Complementing this new development, Avon welcomes into its fold Perry C. Mogar as the new Sub-Cluster Vice President for the Philippines and Indonesia effective May 1, 2003. In this capacity, he will supervise the operations of the two countries while concurrently running Philippines directly as general manager. Mogar brings with him 25 years of marketing expertise in brand management for the top retail and direct selling companies in the country and the region. Prior to joining Avon, Mogar served in Sara Lee as President for Asia and headed operations in five countrues including Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei.

Global network Icom adds new members

ICOM, a leading global network of independent advertising and marketing communications agencies, has strengthened its network in Europe and Asia, adding BrandStorm, Warsaw, to represent Poland; Uzina, Lisbon, to represent Portugal; Creative In-House Ltd., Bangkok, to represent Thailand; and Newsun Communication Group, Guangzhou, to represent the Guangdong region of China.

These additions bring the total number of ICOM agencies worldwide to 72 in 52 countries.

New members said their reasons for wanting to join ICOM were not only to provide their clients valuable international resources but also to afford agency management the opportunity to participate in an exchange of information, ideas and experiences with peers from around the world.

In just four years, Uzina has developed a roster of clients that includes international brands such as Panasonic, GlaxoSmithKline and Precision Tune Autocare (also an ICOM client in the United States). The agency has local accounts in banking, food and do-it-yourself stores.

Started in 1997, BrandStorm has grown into an integrated agency of 16 people, serving international clients; Nestlé, Miele, Citibank, Marriott, Maggi, Sun, Unilever, Pioneer, Wella and Tenneco. The agency also has local accounts in banking, health care, retailing and broadcasting.

Founded in 1993 as an agency serving primarily the hospitality and real estate sectors in Thailand, Creative In-House has developed into a specialized branding agency for corporate, hospitality and consumer-related products. Projects have been completed for a variety of international brands including Conrad Hotels Worldwide, HSBC, Sheraton Hotels Asia, Canadian Airlines, Four Seasons/Regent and Cussons. A focus on branding in the Asia market, including a targeted brand strategy and creative work, has led to steady growth over the last decade.

Newsun Communication Group, formed in 2002, serves clients in a variety of industries including automotive, real estate, electronics and telecom with a staff of 96. Newsun is considered a leader in creativity in the very competitive southern China market."

In the Philippines, ICOM partner agency is ADFORMATIX represented by its chair Willie Garcia, who is also ICOM's Asia Pacific regional director.

"We continue to expand the network as part of our ongoing effort to maintain, strengthen and expand capabilities so that we are prepared to handle accounts wherever our clients need us," said ICOM executive director Gary Burandt. "We look for agencies that understand the importance of working in a global marketplace and of international connections for them and their clients.

Rollinsville-CO-based ICOM offers clients an alternative to the huge and increasingly similar agency groups. Covering 90 percent of the world's markets, the network is the most balanced of international independent agency networks offering a full range of integrated marketing and media communications services. ICOM was founded in 1950 as the National Federation of Advertising Agencies and became the International Federation of Advertising Agencies Inc., in 1980. In 1998, it was renamed to reflect its expanded range of capabilities.

'Lagi Kitang Mamahalin'

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Cynthia V. Subijano

INSPIRED by its successful participation in the first musical Tribute to National Artists in September 2002, the Management Association of the Philippines under its President, Edward Fereira, has once more committed its participation in this year's staging of what is now an annual event, A Musical Tribute to the National Artists titled "Lagi Kitang Mamahalin."

The musical event will also serve as the inauguration of the latest batch of National Artists who include Virgilio Almario for Literature, Salvador Bernal for Theatre and Design, the late Jose Joya for Visual Arts, Alejandro Roces for Literature, and Eddie Romero for Film.

MAP salutes you, the national heroes in the field of Art. That brings the total number of National Artists to 50.

I will not pass up this opportunity to name the other National Artists starting with the father of my former officemate Lina whose father, Fernando C. Amorsolo, a painter, was the first and only conferee for the year 1972. In the last 30 years, Amorsolo was joined in by the following: Francisca Reyes Aquino, Carlos V. Francisco, Amado V. Hernandez, Antonio J. Molina, Juan F. Nakpil, Guillermo E. Tolentino, Jose Garcia Villa, Napoleon V. Abueva, Pablo S. Antonio, Lamberto V. Avellana, Victorio C. Edades, Jovita Fuentes, Leonor Orosa Goquingco, Nick Joaquin, Vicente S. Manansala, Gerardo de Leon, Carlos P. Romulo, Honorata "Atang" de la Rama, Antonino R. Buenaventura, Lucrecia Reyes-Urtula, Lucrecia R. Kasilag, Francisco Arcellana, Cesar T. Legazpi, Leandro V. Locsin, Hernando R. Ocampo, Lucio D. San Pedro, Lino O. Brocka, Levi Celerio, Felipe Padilla de Leon, N.V.M. Gonzales, Wilfredo Ma. Guerrero, Arturo R. Luz, Jose M Maceda, Carlos L. Quirino, Rolando S. Tinio, Daisy H. Avellana, Ernani Cuenco, J. Elizalde Navarro, Edith L. Tiempo, Andrea O. Veneracion, Ang Kiukok, Ismael Bernal, F. Sionil Jose and Severino Montano.

These are the men and women whose exemplary achievements and priceless works of Arts we would like to help perpetuate and preserve through the vision of CCP President Nestor Jardin, a Gallery for National Artists in the CCP Complex. The Gallery will be the permanent repository and museum for the memorabilia and artworks of all the national artists. It was a great task for the CCP to gather materials for last year's "Lagi Kitang Naaalala: A Musical Tribute to Mang Levi, Maestro Lucio at Ka Atang." It is not surprising to lose not only the original materials and the memory of their works, unless we act now.

The staging of the musical presentation "Lagi Kitang Mamahalin" will showcase selected pieces of a handful of our Masters. It is a show that will benefit the construction of the National Artists Gallery. Over 400 performing artists will participate in this tribute. Singer-actress Sharon Cuneta, Asia's Songbird Regine Velasquez and Asia's Nightingale Lani Misalucha top bill the show. Cris Villongco, who is in town, will join young pop divas Anna Fegi, Bituin Escalante, Roselle Nava, pop stars Verni Varga and Jolina Magdangal. Husband-and-wife singers Franco Laurel and Ayen Munji, Cris Millado, Karla Gutierrez, Tex Ordonez, Eugene Villaluz, flutist Jong Cuenco, Sarah Geronimo are but a partial list of artists who have willingly given their talents for this worthy cause.

Last's year's staging of "Lagi Kitang Naaalala" was a sold-out three-day show. Many have clamored for its return engagement, so while CCP decided to do a totally different show it will also feature the popular numbers that made "Lagi" a hit also for the young people. July 11 and July 12 are the dates to remember. Tickets are available at the regular outlets of CCP with tel. no. 832-1125 locals 1803, 1805 and 1806 and look for Lilia Casasola and the MAP Secretariat with tel. nos. 751-1151 or 751-1152.

(The author is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines and the President of ALS Insurance Services, Inc. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

To go or not to go into exports

From page B2-1

ship them. If you decide to put up offices abroad, then there is additional overhead expenses to consider. Clearly, finance is critical when venturing into exports.

Management criteria

Going into export requires a level of professionalism in managing the company. Therefore, a higher level of education or training and experience is desirable to manage the business successfully.

How to score and get points.

If the answer to the question is "Yes" make a check or X mark on the appropriate column then give yourself points using the guideline for maximum points. A "No" answer gets 0 points. The higher the total score, the more export-ready you are.

Interpreting your score:

A low score means you might need to shelve your export marketing plans for now until your firm shapes up. However, if you are determined to plunge on, you have to start right NOW to improve your sales performance in the domestic market, production systems, networking with relevant organizations, financial performance and management skills.

In business, persistence counts. The winner is not the one who never fails, but the one who never quits despite setbacks it might face.

(Check out UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries training programs for the quarter: Strategic Marketing Course, Total Quality Management, Start Your Own business, and Managing Your Finance by calling up Tels. 928-7076 to 79)

Criteria	Yes	No	Rating	
			Maximum Points	Firm's Rating
Market				
1) Does the firm have a viable domestic market			1) 8	
2) Does the firm have contacts locally and/or abroad who can facilitate selling in the export market?			2) 8	
3) Do the products have distinctive designs/quality/features /and or uniqueness to make them sellable in the export market?			3) 6	
4) Is the firm a member of relevant industry association?			4) 4	
5)Does the firm have access to government-assisted-marketing programs			5) 4	
Total				30
Production				
1) Does the firm have the necessary production facilities and capacity in terms of volume for the export market?				
a) A network of raw material suppliers?			a) 3	
b) A network of suppliers of other critical production inputs			b) 3	
c) A pool of sources for manpower/labor force			c) 3	
d) Appropriate technology/equipment to be competitive vis -a- vis other domestic and foreign firms			d) 3	
e) Available time to produce products for export			e) 3	
Subtotal			15	
2) Do the firm's production facilities and processes comply with international standards?			15	
Total				30
Finance				
1) Does the firm have its own financial resources to go into exports?			1) 15	
2) Does the firm have access to financing or financial institutions that can finance export activities			2) 15	
Total				30
Human Resources				
1) Does the management team have the educational background and work experience to manage the firm professionally?				10
Over all total				100

Your bills can carry diseases, don't sully them

By Clarissa S. Batino

WHEN the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas talked about dirty money a year ago, it was clear to everybody that it meant illegally acquired and laundered funds covered by the country's less than two-year-old law against money laundering.

During its 10th year anniversary last Thursday, July 3, however, the BSP launched a campaign against a different kind of dirty money, referring to the literal bills we have on our wallets—some of which look like they are more fit to be in the trash bins that in our purses.

Reflection of history

"We ask the public to help us in this project, first by taking good care of their money by not writing on them, soiling, folding and mutilating these bills and even coins. Let us take good care of our peso notes because they are the reflection of our rich history," says the BSP chief.

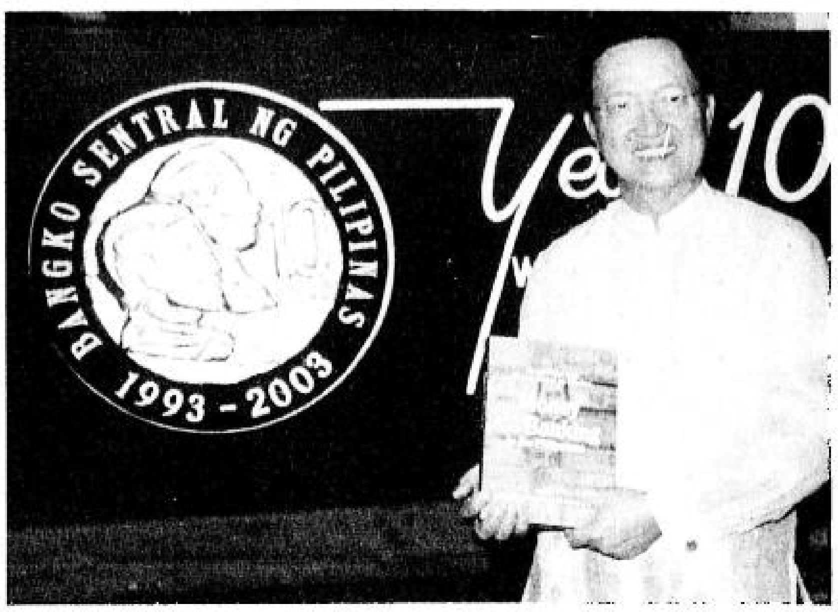
In crisp Tagalog belying his Ilocano roots, Buenaventura did a 30-second ad to inform viewers and involve them with the BSP's new initiative.

The central bank chief encourages those in possession of notes and coins unfit for circulation to deposit these or exchange them with banks so the BSP would be able to collect them more efficiently.

He cautions, however, that only bills and coins classified as unfit for circulation would be exchanged because those deemed as mutilated would only be collected without compensation for the holder.

Limp notes

Banknotes that are limp or rag-like in appearance, badly soiled, contain writings and heavy creases are deemed unfit for circulation, based on a central bank circular in 1995.


BSP Gov. Rafael Buenaventura holds a copy of the banking book launched during BSP's 10th anniversary.

Mutilated ones that the BSP would not exchange but would still collect are those that are torn and joined by tapes, defaced, scorched, burned, reduced and lost all signatures.

Coins that are clipped, perforated, and burned are.also classified as mutilated while unfit are coins that are twisted or defaced but the denomination could still be determined.

10 year old mandate

This is the first time for the BSP to campaign for clean notes even while the policy is provided for in Section 56 of the 10-year old New Central Bank Act, the law that mandated the creation of the BSP a.

"The BSP shall withdraw from circulation and shall demonitize all notes and coins which for any reason are unfit for circulation and shall replace them by adequate notes and coins," said the law.

Aggressively retiring unfit bills and coins is expected to entail additional cost for the BSP as it would involve printing and minting of more local currencies in place of the old ones.

"We are prepared to deal with the extra cost to maintain the integrity of our bills," notes Buenaventura.

Why the BSP would campaign for clean money only a decade after the idea of retiring unfit bills and coins were tackled by the New Central Bank Act is quite disturbing.

The central bank governor explains that in the past, sorting and classifying cash into clean or unfit took up loads of banks' time and resources.

To make the entire process less tedious, the BSP signed an agreement with the Philippine Clearing House Corp. to automate the cash management services of the central bank.

Fe dela Cruz, director of BSP's Corporate Affairs Office explains that the cash management center is a facility that would sort and segregate notes unfit for circulation and in turn, surrender these to the central bank.

"Instead of having each bank sort out and surrender the unfit notes to the BSP, the centralized facility would be more efficient," she adds.

Now more than ever, the BSP must not let up on the campaign to rid the system of soiled and mutilated notes following concerns that currencies could be carriers of deadly diseases like the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome or SARS.

"The spread of diseases, tourism concerns, and inherent traits of Filipinos on cleanliness and respect for our heroes and leaders featured in the bills and coins prompted the BSP to launch the clean note campaign," says dela Cruz.

Buenaventura adds that it would be easier for the public to spot counterfeit notes if the peso bills were in good condition.

"The campaign is not only for aesthetic and as part of national pride, it is also for everybody's protection against diseases and fake bills," notes the BSP chief.

To know if a banknote is badly-soiled, hold it from one end and try to make it stand. If it fails this test, then it's time to go to the bank and exchange it. This kind of dirty money is impossible to launder.

Leave it to the BSP to clean these types of dirty money. "Anyway, who would not want to keep crisp banknotes in their pockets," asks the BSP governor.

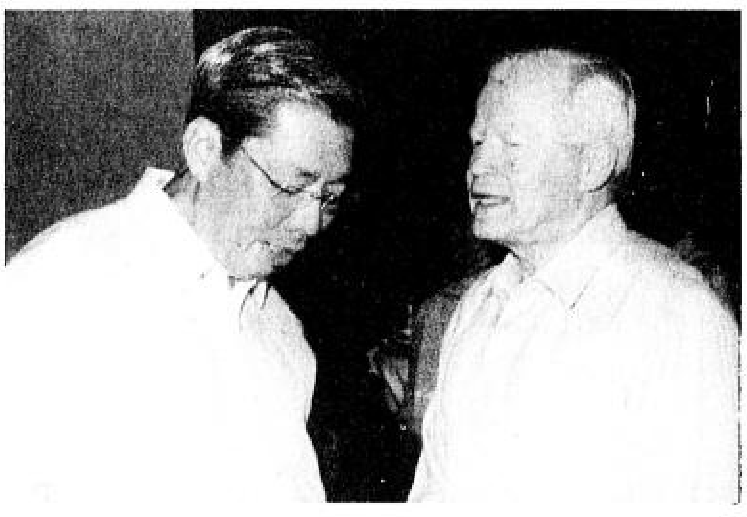
During the anniversary, the BSP also launched a book - Money and Banking in the Philippines: Perspectives from BSP.

The book was written by several BSP and Monetary Board officials.

BUENAVENTURA signs the copy of PO Domingo, president of the University of the East. The book has been endorsed as a college textbook.

BANKERS Association of the Philippines executive director Topper Coronel and iBank president Ramon Sy.

THE BOOK's authors sign copies. BSP Deputy Gov. Alberto Reyeas, Deputry Gov. Amando Tetangco, Dep. Gov. Armando Suratos and Monetary Board member Vicente Valdepenas.


MB member Antonino Alindogan with former central bank governor Jose L. Cuisia.

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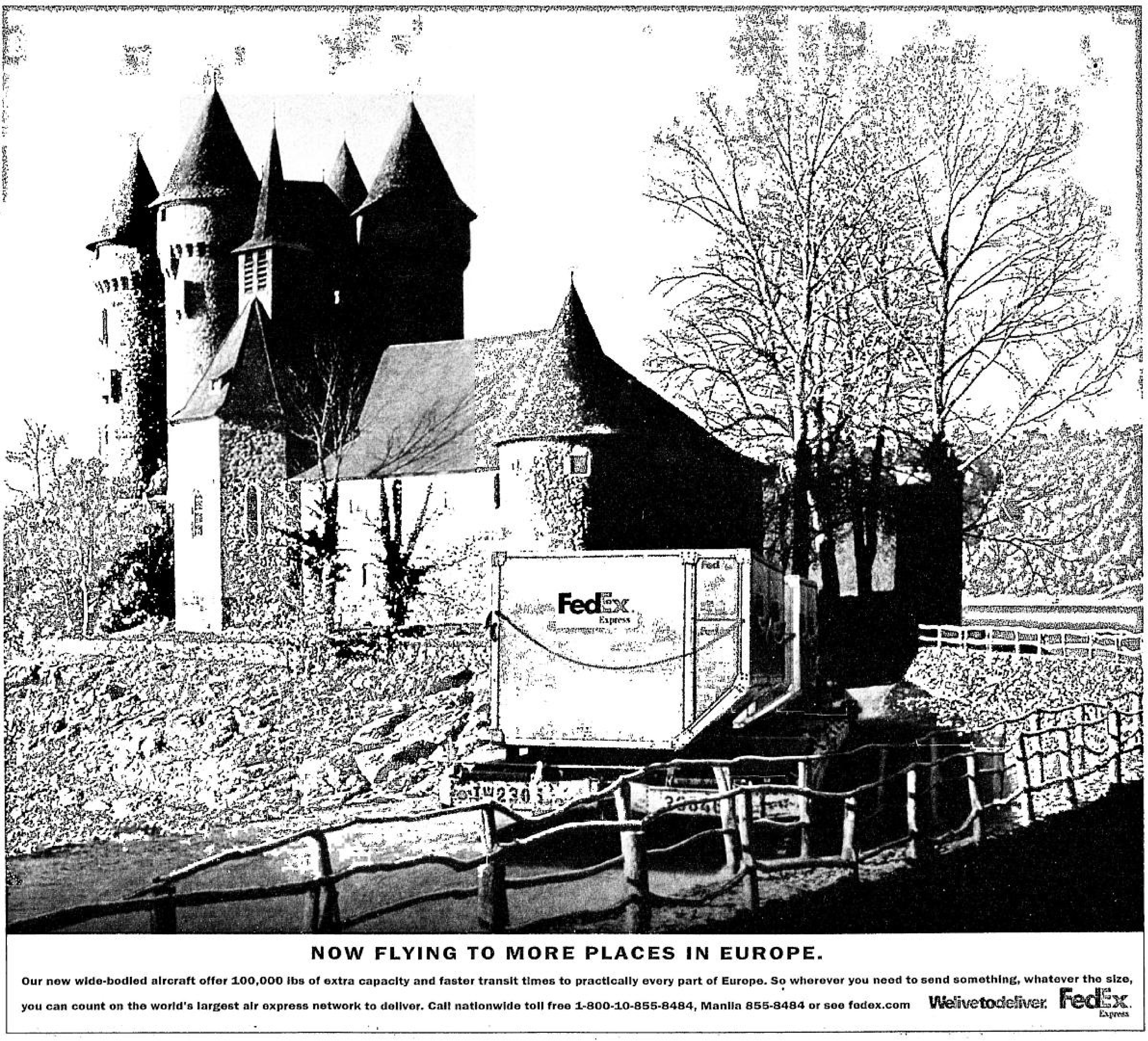

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Editor Louie C. Camino

Filmfest participants get ₱6M

ATIENZA thinks movies can help boost the economy. JACINTO TEE

By Marinel R. Cruz

TO PERSUADE more Filipino filmmakers to create more high-quality works, the city government of Manila awarded a total of P6 million to the producers of the six official entries in the recent Manila Film Festival.

The scriptwriters of the six entries in the film festival, also called "Pista ng Pelikulang Pilipino," were also given P100,000 in cash incentive per script, according to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, who is also chair of the festival's executive committee.

Joel Lamangan's "Ang Huling Birhen sa Lupa," the festival's best picture winner, was given a cash prize of P50,000, the mayor said.

The city government will also subsidize the sub-titling of "Huling Birhen" and will facilitate the screening of the movie in Manila's sister cities like San Francisco, New York and Tokyo, he added.

"On top of these incentives is the waiver of the amusement tax on the box-office earnings during the two-week festival," Atienza told INQUIRER Entertainment on Saturday.

FILMFEST/ C3

DID YOU KNOW...

GMA 7 radio and television broadcaster **Arnold Clavio** was seen last Friday having lunch at the Murasaki restaurant at The Loop, which is inside the compound of ABS-CBN in Quezon City. People who spotted him wondered if he was moving over to GMA 7's rival station. Early last week, Arnold was also seen in a fine dining restaurant, chatting with ABS senior vice president for news and current affairs Dong Puno.

Pops makes up /C7

"QUEEN" Fernandez bares all JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Arnold: I'm ready for my nude shot /C8

"GOVERNOR" Schwarzenegger

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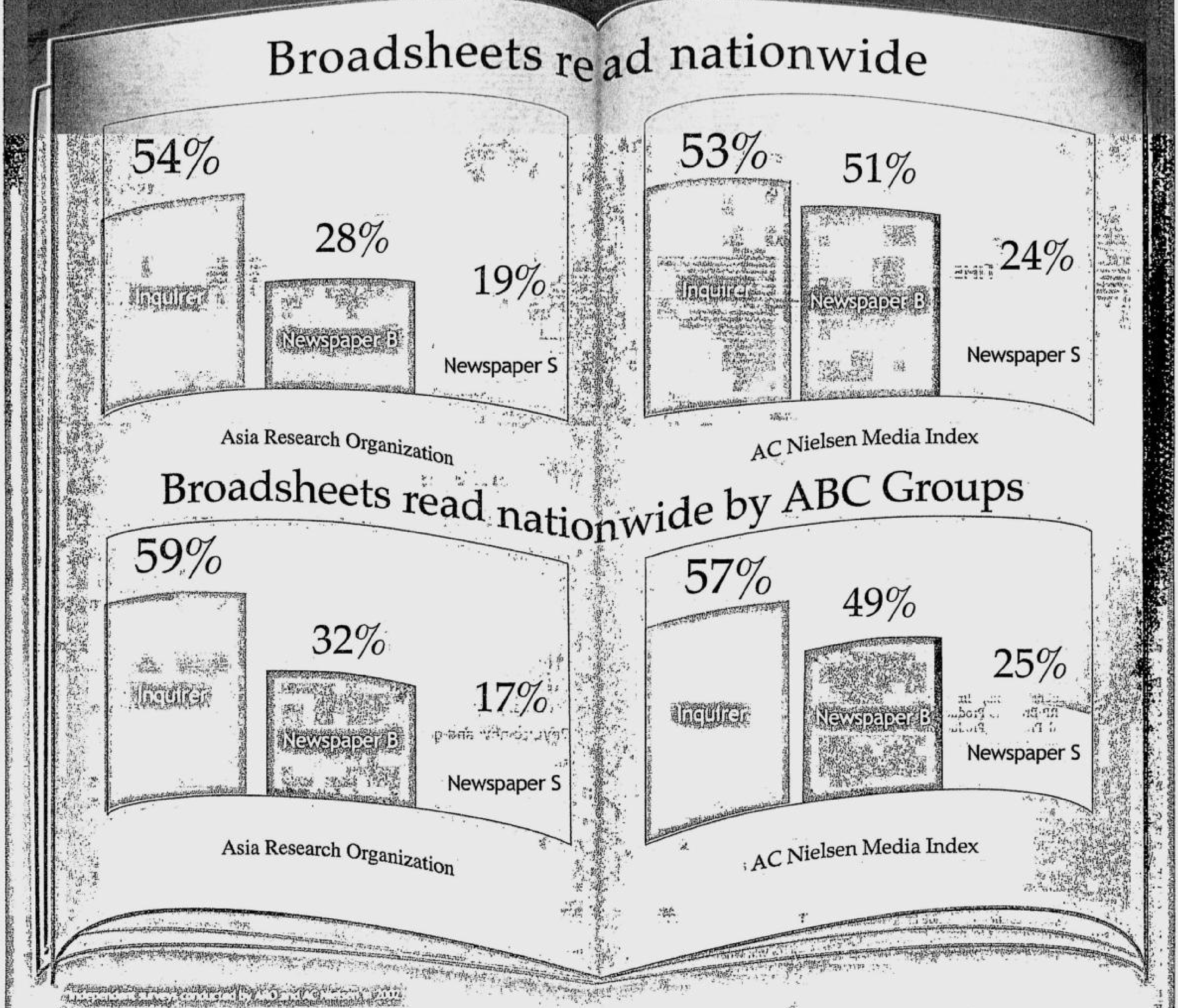

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Sheik to rule for 2 nights

SHEIK

DUNCAN Sheik, whose hits include "Barely Breathing," "Wishful Thinking," "Half Life" and "On a High," continues to evolve as a musician with every album and proves that he is not a one-hit wonder.

In his new album, "Daylight," Sheik offers an acoustic/electric musical compilation of melodies that strike that perfect balance between John Mayer and the Counting Crows.

The acclaimed hitmaker, singer and songwriter is performing in Manila in "Duncan Sheik Acoustically Live in Manila" on July 18 to 19, presented by Smart Buddy in cooperation with PLDT, MyMusic, Discovery Suites, No Curfew and Citizen, and by Skechers USA. The concert, at the Aliw Theater at the CCP Complex, will have guest performers Rockwell Ryan and Dain Samuelson (of Stephen Speaks), and our very own Paolo Santos.

Tickets are available at all Ticketworld and Ticketnet outlets, all major National Bookstore and SM branches. Call Select Media, 813-2612, or Eventscape, 561-0442.

The event's official media partners are Wave 89.1, 89.9 TM, 99.5 RT, 103.5 K-Lite, MTV Philippines, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Manila Bulletin and Young Star.

For more information, call 813-2617.

SHOW TIME

BASIL AT THE BAR

On Wednesday, July 16, 105.1 Crossover brings together two of the country's finest artists in "Crossover Presents: Basil Valdez and Anna Fegi" at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental. Joining them are The Opera and musicians Bond Samson, Bobby Taylo, Cesar Aguas, Roy Mercado and musical director Gerard Salonga. For tickets, call Crossover, 712-9755 or 712-9764; Ticketworld, 891-5610; or Captain's Bar, 750-8888.

Filmfest . . .

From page C1

Jaggs Entertainment's "Ang Huling Birhen," Viva Films' "Pangarap Ko Ang Ibigin Ka," MAQ Productions' "Sanib," Imus Productions' "Putik," RP Brothers Productions' "Alab ng Lahi" and Premiere Productions' "Operation: Balikatan" were shown in Metro Manila and major cities in the country from June 12 to 24, the last day also being "Araw ng Maynila."

In 2001, Atienza signed a city ordinance reducing by half the share of the city government in the 30-percent amusement tax on local movies shown in Manila theaters.

The ordinance also provides that the share being waived would be divided between the movie producer (80 percent) and theater owner (20 percent).

The festival executive committee decided to limit the official entries to six to match the city's six congressional districts which "adopted" one entry each.

"But next year would be different," the mayor said. "We plan to add two or four more movie entries and increase the incentives of participants.

"We believe that good movies are very powerful tools in improving the country's economy," he added.

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3 MGA MUNTING TINIG / 28 DAYS LATER
CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE

G4 GLORIETTA 4
1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE
2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE
THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
4 28 DAYS LATER
5 PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE
6 THE HUNTED
7 DUMB AND DUMBERER

GB1 GREENBELT 1
ArtFilm
1 DANCER IN THE DARK 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:30, 9:10
2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE 11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 9:00
Onstage
MEMORIES... ONSTAGE
RICO J. PUNO
July 8 - 9:00pm

GB3 GREENBELT 3
GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 THE HUNTED 12:25 2:35 4:45 6:55 9:05 11:15
GUARANTEED SEATS THX CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE 1:05 3:25 5:45 8:05 10:25
GUARANTEED SEATS PUNCH DRUNK LOVE 12:30 2:30 4:30 6:30 8:30 10:30
GUARANTEED SEATS CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE 1:55 4:15 6:35 8:55 11:15
GUARANTEED SEATS CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE 12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40 12:00

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4 GOLD (DTS ES) THE HULK
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX) CHARLIE'S ANGELS
6 GOLD (SDDS) CHARLIE'S ANGELS
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX) THE HUNTED
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10 PIGLET THE MOVIE

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3 THE HULK

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6 TUMITIBOK, KUMIKIROT
7 HULK
8 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 BIGAY HILIG
2 CLOSED
3 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4 OPERATION BALIKATAN
5 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6 HULK
7 CLOSED
8 CONFESSIONS OF A ...

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3 THE HUNTED
4 WISHMASTER 4
5 MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
6 HULK

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2 THE HUNTED
3 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4 28 DAYS LATER

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2 HULK
3 THE HUNTED
4 MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2 ADAPTATION
3 HULK
4 WILLARD
5 THE HUNTED
6 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

SM BICUTAN
776-3056
1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2 28 DAYS LATER
3 DUMB & DUMBERER
4 THE HUNTED

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
859-2884
1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 SANID
4 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1 THE HUNTED
12:05 FS/12:35 MF/2:40/4:45/
10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/
10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:50 END

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2 THE HUNTED
3 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
4 28 DAYS LATER
5 DUMB & DUMBERER
6 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
7 SMALL VOICES
8 PIGLETS THE MOVIE
9 DANCER IN THE DARK
10 HULK

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Ermita
536-7809-12
1 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
2 HULK
3 DUMB & DUMBERER
4 28 DAYS LATER
5 THE HUNTED
6 PIGLTES
7 CHARLIES ANGELS 2

Metro East - Marcos hway
682-8193 / 8280
1 DUMB & DUMBERER
2 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
3 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
4 THE HUNTED
5 28 DAYS LATER
6 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
7 HULK
8 SMALL VOICES

Novaliches
935-3229-30
1 HULK
2 DUMB & DUMBERER
3 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
4 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
5 THE HUNTED
6 28 DAYS LATER
7 MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
8 FERDINANDO & CAROLINA

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2 DUMB & DUMBERER
3 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
4 28 DAYS LATER

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1 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
2 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
3 WISH MASTER
4 MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
5 THE HUNTED
6 ADAPTATION

Imus
471-8188 / 875-3838
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2 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
3 DUMB & DUMBERER
4 THE HUNTED
5 28 DAYS LATER
6 HULK

Sta. Rosa Laguna
(049)837-0907
1 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
2 DUMB & DUMBERER
3 THE HUNTED
4 BIGAY HILIG
5 TUMITIBOK..KUMIKIROT

Bacolod
441-0453 / 0459
1 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
2 THE HUNTED
3 HULING BIRHEN
4 ADAPTATION
5 ALAB NG LAHI
6 HULK

Iloilo
336-8077-78
1 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
2 ADAPTATION
3 CHARLIES ANGELS 2
4 CONFESSION DANGEROUS MIND
5 BIGAY HILIG
6 HULK

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Awesome secrets revealed

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"DANCER in the Dark" won the Palme D'or at the Cannes filmfest, where its female lead player, **Björk**, also garnered the best actress plum. But the movie is deemed uncommercial, so it has taken a long time to get to local mainstream screens.

Now that it's here, however, you should catch it, to experience its charged and unique view of life.

The film tells the tragic story of Björk's character, a young immigrant, a single mother from Eastern Europe who goes to the United States with her young son in the '60s and works in a small factory.

She lives a difficult life, but doesn't complain. Her main outlet is her love for musicals, which she expresses by playing Maria in a local production of "The Sound of Music."

So far, so commonplace. But, as the film and its central character start to reveal their secrets, they turn out to be truly awesome. Unknown to her neighbors and friends at the factory, the single mother has a huge problem that is worsening by the day.

It is a problem that she shares with her son. Since it's too late for her to do anything for herself, she concentrates on making sure that he doesn't end up suffering her fate.

As she works herself to the bone and saves up for this goal of hers, she reveals herself to viewers as a secret heroine of great proportions.

Unfortunately, the world doesn't lack for people who are all too ready to take advantage of heroic but excessively trusting souls. There comes a time, therefore, when the solution to her son's problem disappears, and it turns out that it's been stolen by a good friend.

Worse, the "friend" makes it appear that Björk is the culprit. One dire thing leads to another, and eventually, the psychologically harrowing tale acquires a new, more bloody dimension.

It doesn't seem to matter that the single mother is the victim, not the criminal. Expert distortion of the evidence lays the "guilt" at her feet—and her life is suddenly at risk. It's all tragically unjust, but it happens.

BJÖRK in "Dancer in the Dark": Victim, not criminal

The film's powerful plotting, passionate portrayals and ironic insights are its strongest suits. Elements that might irritate and even turn off some viewers include frenetic camera work, jagged editing, musical numbers staged in an intentionally heavy-handed, "socialist," style, and excessive detail and length.

For our part, however, we were able to "take" most of those potentially contrary elements, because the movie's strong plot, characters and theme kept the production on an even keel. Filmmaking idiosyncracies come and go, but truly heroic movie stories endure.

Feedback

MS **Pureza R.Pacis** shares these thoughts on movie villains:

"When we were young, we loved to hate **Jack Palance** because he made life miserable for our favorite actors. In Filipino films, the shrewdest were **Vic Silayan** and **Gil de Leon**, who could shift from villain to hero roles, depending on the script.

"The next generation's versatile actors include **Richard Gomez** and **Christopher de Leon**, who can be very mean when required to be bad, and very good when they need to be good.

"Remarkably, **Eddie Garcia** was very scheming in 'Gubernador!' Even if he's into comedy, with his ad libs and punchlines, he's still better known as an arch-rival.

"It's that difficult to get out of their mold!

"**Gabby Concepcion** was most brutal in 'Mahalin ang Iyong Asawa,' where he killed the character played by **Barbara Perez** while trying to retrieve his wife (**Aiko Melendez**) from the Home for Battered Wives. Could not forgive him for that! (Understandable, since I'm a social worker by profession.)

"On their female counterparts: Funny, but when I once spotted **Bella Flores** at SM, I still remembered how she and **Rod Navarro** had been so unkind (in a film) to my favorite actress, **Gloria Romero**.

"In the same league as Cruella de Ville with her were **Etang Discher**, **Mary Walter** and **Rebecca del Rio**. Of the younger generation, **Cherie Gil** is the one who can take on any role (no second-rate copycat, she!)

"Over the years, my idea of a *contravida* has shifted from the typecast actors to the '*nasa loob ang kulo*,' the likes of **Jessica Lange**, the *madrasta* in 'Hush,' **Glenn Close** in 'Fatal Attraction,' the couple in 'Kramer vs Kramer,' where neither was victor nor the oppressed, and both ended up as losers.

"Of late, however, the one I love to hate is **Willem Defoe**. He's so mean that, when his name is in the billing, I know he'll really give the leading man a helluva time. That, to me, is the real test!"

Former Bond girl ordained

LONDON—A former James Bond girl and model has been ordained into the Church of England, according to Church officials.

A Church spokesperson said on Friday that Shannon Ledbetter was ordained last Sunday at the cathedral of Liverpool in northern England.

Ledbetter had a part in the 1997 movie "Tomorrow Never Dies."

Ledbetter, who will serve as a vicar in a small English town, said she had always known her real calling was religion.

Born in Germany, she became a model at age was 21 and landed a part in the James Bond movie, where she wore a skintight, black outfit.

"I got close to (Irish actor) Pierce Brosnan (who played Bond) and that was exciting," Ledbetter told Agence France Presse.

In her years as a model, Ledbetter mixed with young women who took drugs.

"They knew I didn't approve and that I had religious beliefs because on Sundays I didn't work as I went to church," she said.

After giving up modeling, she studied Anglican theology in the United States and in Liverpool, where she completed a doctoral thesis on Providence and Vocation.

"People have an image of the church as full of old people," a Church of England spokesperson said.

"In fact, it is full of young, attractive people and is growing. Shannon represents that."

Ledbetter will be the new vicar of Saint Mark parish in Knowsley, northwest England.

She said: "I really don't see myself as some stuffy vicar type . . . stuck in a quiet rural village.

"Although I am looking forward to representing the church from a faith perspective, I also want to reach people in the community and help them deal with issues affecting them," Ledbetter added. *AFP*

Oscar campaigners face expulsion

LOS ANGELES—Academy Awards voters could be kicked out under new rules intended to tone down aggressive Oscar campaigning.

The new penalty—expulsion or suspension from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences—is aimed mainly at studio executives and staff who oversee efforts to position their films for Oscar contention.

But it also could apply to nominees themselves, including actors, directors and writers.

The academy issued the tougher rules Wednesday to curtail increasingly combative campaigning as studios blanket the industry with ads, DVD and videotape copies of films and special screenings.

Previously called "guidelines," the code of conduct now comes under the tougher heading of "regulations."

The possibility of forfeiting academy membership adds personal consequences for violating Oscar rules, said Frank Pierson, academy president.

In the past, the most common penalty was taking some tickets to the Oscar ceremony away from a studio.

Losing Oscar tickets "is not an effective deterrent," Pierson said. "It's a slap on the wrist. But the issue of being booted out of the academy or having your membership suspended is a real issue for any member."

The academy also added a rule prohibiting quotes from academy members in movie ads.

Distributor Miramax vexed competitors before this year's Oscars by running newspaper ads that reprinted an opinion column by Oscar-winning director Robert Wise that praised nominee Martin Scorsese for "Gangs of New York."

There were similar instances in past years where academy members wound up quoted in movie ads, said Richard Kahn, who heads the academy committee that revised the rules.

"It was very apparent to us that this was a new campaign technique that if allowed to continue unfettered could really get out of hand," Kahn said. *AP*

PIERSON

Charlie Chan series canceled over racist protest

LOS ANGELES—A US broadcaster said Wednesday it had scrapped plans to air a series of "Charlie Chan" movies depicting a Chinese-American detective after Asian groups decried the films as racist caricatures.

The Fox Movie Channel announced on its website that it was canceling the scheduled broadcasts of "Charlie Chan Mystery Tour," a festival of "Charlie Chan" movies that was due to air throughout June, July and August.

"Fox Movie Channel has been made aware that the 'Charlie Chan' films may contain situations or depictions that are sensitive to some viewers," the cable network said.

"Fox Movie Channel realizes that these historic films were produced at a time where racial sensitivities were not as they are today," it added in a statement.

The network had planned to broadcast some 23 restored copies of the 44 classic 20th Century Fox films that were made between 1931 and 1949 showing the adventures of the ethnic Chinese sleuth.

It said the movies had been scheduled to satisfy mystery fans and movie buffs and to illustrate "the positive aspects" of the movies, including complex story lines and "Charlie Chan's great intellect."

Asian American groups, which have been campaigning for two decades against racial stereotypes in the vintage films, claimed victory in their campaign.

The National Asian-American

CHARLIE/ C6

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'Please...

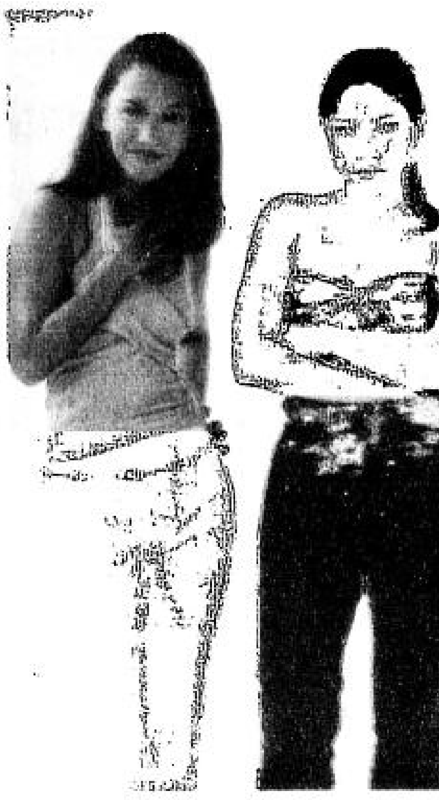
From page C8

would be a mistake and are campaigning to keep him in cinema by hoisting a banner proclaiming "Arnie for Oscar" in a bid to convince him to remain an actor.

"Mr. Schwarzenegger, although you would make a great president of the United States like (former California governor) Ronald Reagan, the US constitution forbids foreign-born citizens from holding office," they said in a statement. "So why throw away a super-great career?"

And Shabel has another reason why Arnie should play on the silver screen and not on the political podium.

"Just because a girl's over 70, doesn't mean she can't appreciate a good-looking man," she said. "And I want to be able to keep admiring him in his movies." *AFP*


HOSTS Crystal (left) and Temprosa of "Entrepinoy-Start-Up"

Charlie Chan...

From page C5

Telecommunications Association, which spearheaded the bid to drive the movies off US airwaves, said the movies were "one of the most offensive Asian caricatures of America's cinematic past."

"Asian Americans feel that Charlie Chan is a demeaning portrayal that is culturally inaccurate and 'entertaining' at our expense," said the group's executive director, Eddie Wong.

The group deplores the fact that white actors took the role of the Chinese detective and turned him into a caricature that bore no resemblance to real Asian Americans. *AFP*

Fresh faces host new business show

TWO fresh new faces are hosting "Entrepinoy-Start-up," a business show which premiered recently at IBC 13 and airs every Thursday, 5:30-6:00 p.m.

Sheryll Crystal and Cecile Temprosa are young and attractive broadcasters who typify the show's target audience: young turks who are starting their own businesses.

SHOW TIME

Sheryll is a humanities graduate who got into broadcasting when she joined a contest in Cebu and was taken in as a radio news reader for a year. In Manila a year after, she applied as a DJ for Magic 89.9 and has since been a disc jockey for the station for the past six years.

In between her radio job, she worked as copywriter for an agency and as business center manager for another company. Two years ago, she and three other friends opened M2T Inc., a medical transcription firm. She has also done more than two dozens commercials.

Cecile got her training in newscasting from ABS-CBN Center for Communication Arts where she earned two diplomas in Newscasting Level 1 and 2. She was lead vocalist of The Velvet Mood String Ensemble, The Marcy David Band, and Flinstones and the Gang. She has performed at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel Lobby Lounge.

For a year, she trained at the Halili-Cruz School of Music. She also worked in an advertising firm.

Taking turns in hosting portions of the show, Sheryll and Cecile give the fresh roundup of what's new and hot in the business.

The "Gen E" segment aims to stir up and inspire young viewers to try and discover their potentials as future entrepreneurs.

"Kaya Ko 'To" highlights the innovative traits of Filipino businessmen.

"Just Bituin Us" rounds up successful celebrities and their businesses.

"Events" takes a quick look at what's new in the business community.

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SCHWARZENEGGER
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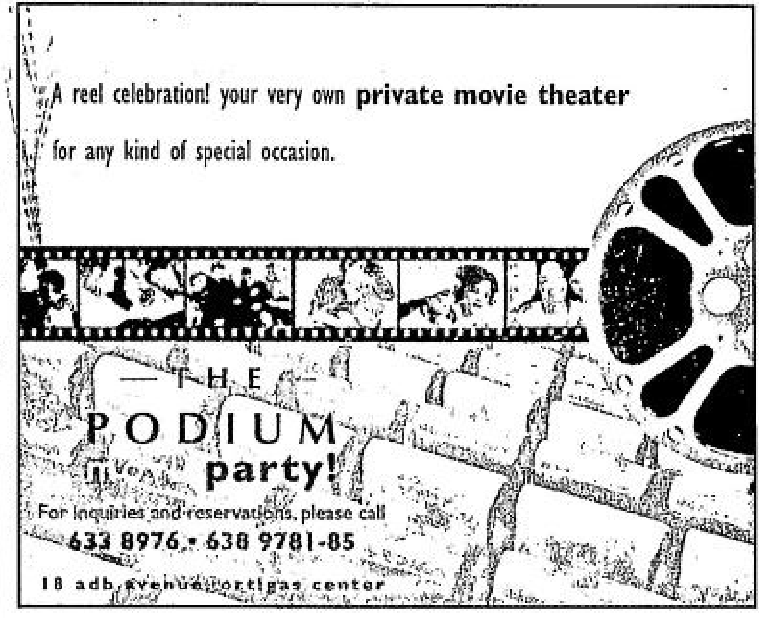
RISE OF THE MACHINES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Ali 3	DUMB AND DUMBERER
Ali 4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
Ali 5	THE HUNTED
Ali 6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
Ali 7	28 DAYS LATER

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THE HUNTED R13 12:10,2:10,4:10, 6:10,8:10,10:10	MUNTING TINIG - GP 12:15, 2:45, 28 DAYS LATER - R18 5:15, 7:40,10:00	CHARLIE'S ANGELS: FULL THROTTLE PG13 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30

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ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
B	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
CINEMA-2	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
CINEMA-3	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CHARLIES ANGELS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HULK
CINEMA-6	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
CINEMA-7	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-8	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	CHARLIES ANGELS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CHARLIES ANGELS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	28 DAYS LATER
CINEMA-12	DUMB AND DUMBERER
CINEMA-14	THE HUNTED
CINEMA-15	MUNTING TINIG
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	HOW TO A GUY IN 10 DAYS
CINEMA 2	OPERATION BALIKATAN
CINEMA 3	ALAB NG LAHI
CINEMA 4	SO CLOSE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
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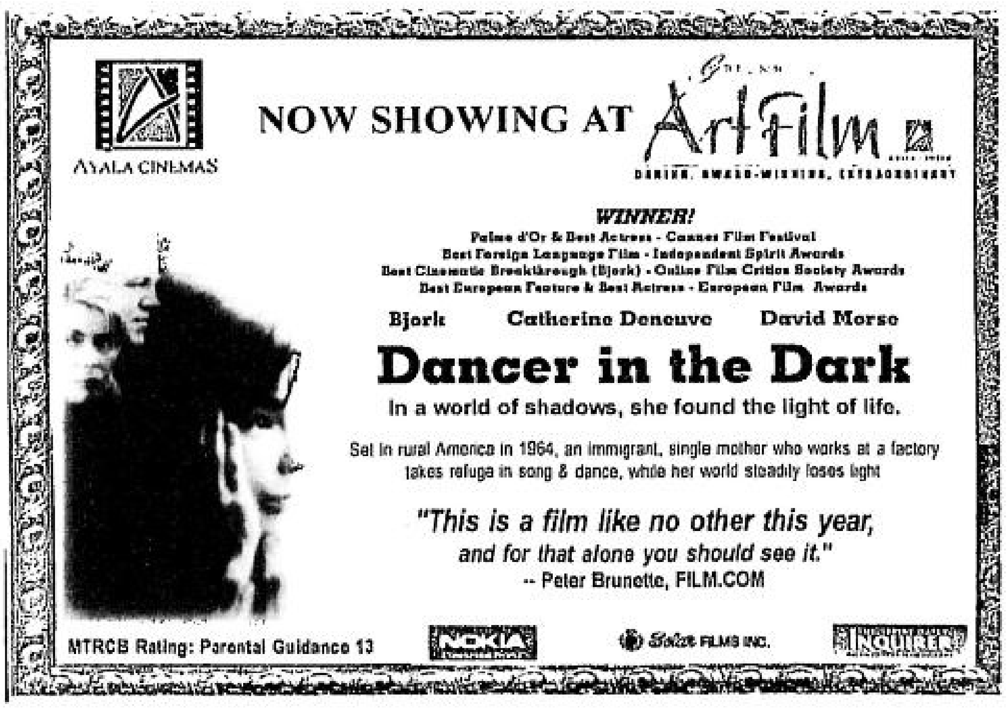
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-- Peter Brunette, FILM.COM
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
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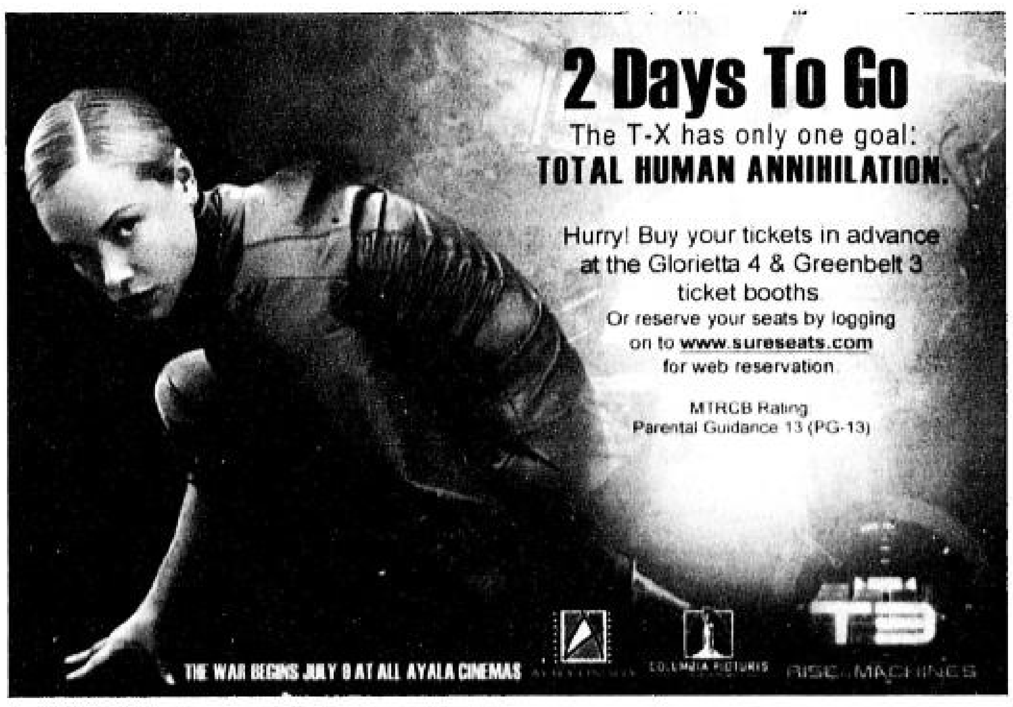
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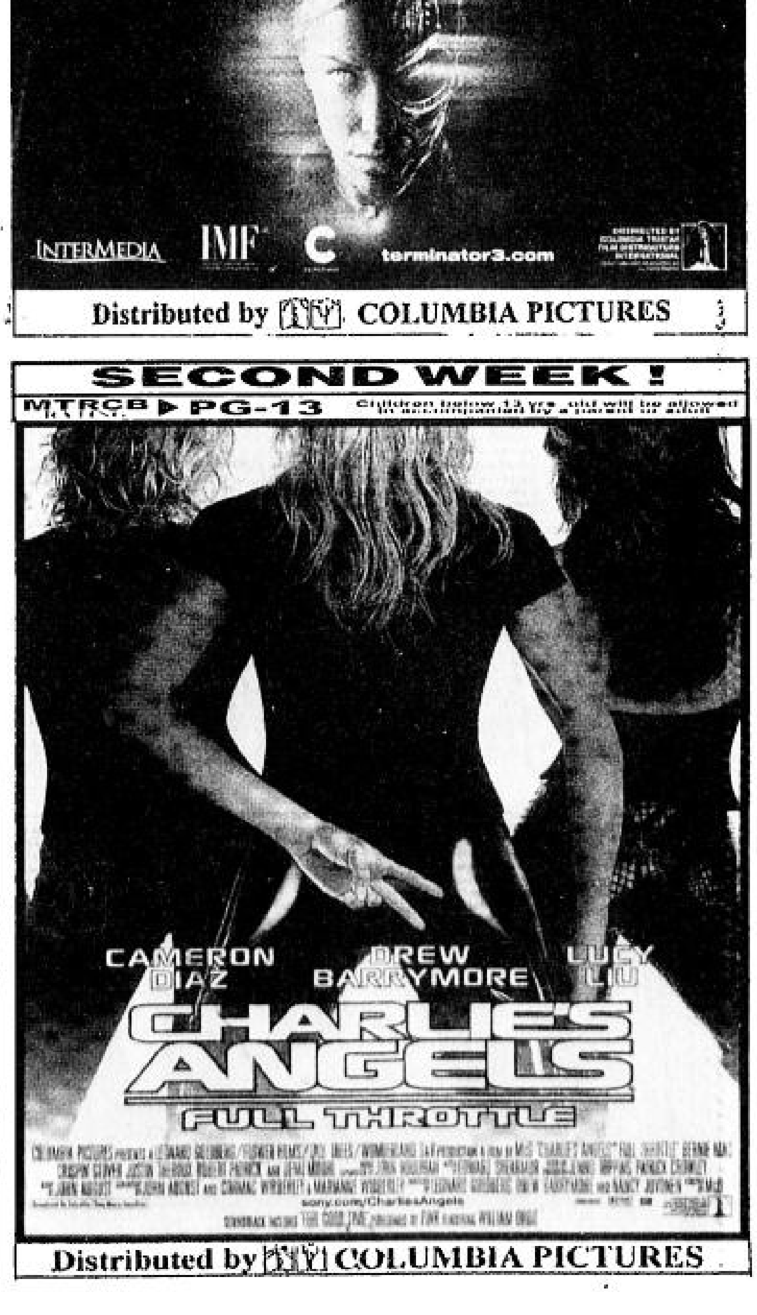
SECOND WEEK!
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
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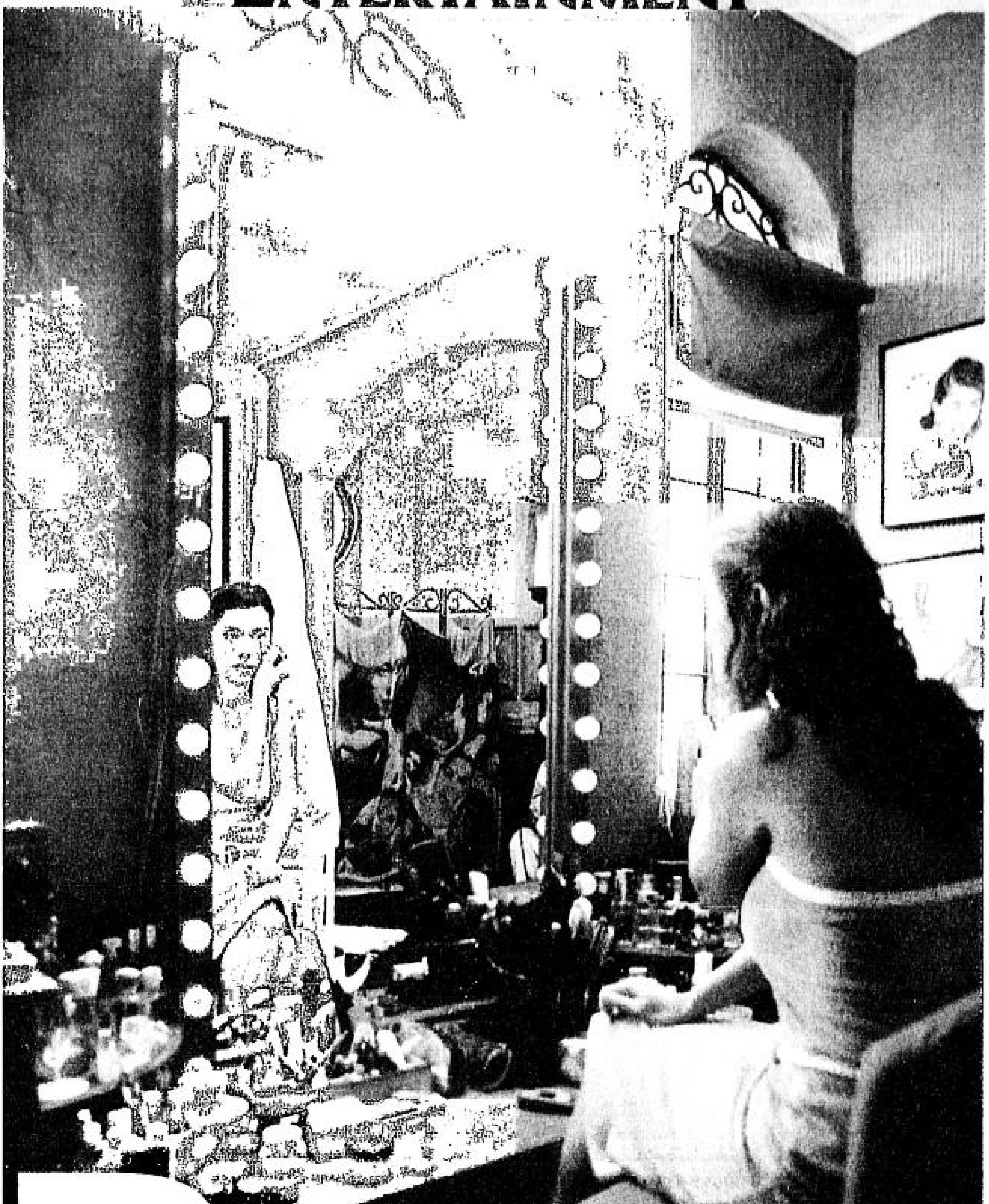
FOR WALKING, she picks Nine West loafers.



OUT OF THE CLOSET

Pops makes up

Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

By Leah Salterio
Contributor

POPS Fernandez has a mind-boggling array of makeup that extends from one end of her huge dresser to the other. Her biggest expense, she says, is make-up and not clothes or shoes.

"I only have one face," Pops says with a smile. "I have more than a hundred pieces of lip gloss and lipstick alone. I really love make-up."

Pops' dressing room, which adjoins her bedroom and is connected to her bathroom, is undoubtedly fit for a star. The huge mirror that is surrounded with light bulbs reminds you of a dressing room backstage of a theater.

The site of the concert queen's dressing room was originally a *verandah* in the Ayala Alabang house that she shares with her sons Robin, 16, and Ram, 12. After her ex-husband, concert king Martin Nievera, left, the house underwent a major renovation–from the lawn that has a swimming pool to the second floor, the entire left wing of which is her area.

"The next guy will have to get me a new house," says Pops. "I cannot share this house again with another guy."

She has a four-poster bed in her bedroom, where she and her sons often sleep together. The huge TV in front of the bed used to be in the boys' bedroom.

"Now they play games here in my room," their mom says.

A part of the bedroom has been converted into a viewing room and listening area. "I love John Mayer," says Pops, referring to the Grammy Award-winning acoustic singer.

Her DVD collection includes the first three seasons of "Friends."

"Here at home, my sons and I pretend we're characters on 'Friends,'" she says. "Robin is Matthew Perry. Ram is Matt Le Blanc and I'm Jennifer Aniston."

When her sons are with their dad, Pops sleeps with a chihuahua named Kirra, a present from Gretchen Barretto.

Shelves covered with curtains in her bedroom are storage areas for her bags, shoes, gowns and other clothes. Scattered around the living room and all the way to the bathroom are teddy bears of all sizes, which Pops collects. Her favorite is a small one which she bought in the Gold Coast, Australia, during her recent vacation with her rumored boyfriend, Australian Brad Turvey.

The walls in the corridor leading to the bedroom is a mini gallery of photos, of Pops in her concerts, pictorials and travels abroad with her sons.

In the living room are more photos of Pops, her sons, and her mom Dulce, sister Jocelyn, and brothers Joey and Edwin.

The only photo of Martin displayed in the house shows him with Ariel Rivera, Zsa Zsa Padilla and Joey Mead, taken on the set of the ABS-CBN Sunday noontime show, "ASAP," which he and Pops used to host.

Every piece of decor and furnishing in the house came from places Pops had visited. There's an 1893 wooden cabinet with carvings inside, and Oriental jars, vases, cabinets, and tables. A life-size mirror looms in the center of the high-ceilinged living room. Paintings are everywhere, even in the dining room. Tatami shades cover the windows.

When it comes to clothes, Pops says she has become more practical. She goes for "affordable" brands like Banana Republic and Gap. And her favorite getup are jeans and shirts.

She confesses there was a time when she went crazy over Chanel items, from bags to belts and other accessories.

"Up to this day, I still keep all of them, although I've outgrown Chanel and I'm more practical now," she says. "Once in a while, I treat myself to a pair of Gucci shoes, as a reward for myself for working hard. But for my other shoes, I go to Nine West. I like their shoes."

She also keeps an array of bags, from leather to beaded kinds. "But I've set aside all my leather bags and now, I go for colorful bags," she says. "Louis Vuitton gave me a Papillon bag because they made me their 'woman of style and fashion,' like other celebrities identified with their products, including Gwyneth Paltrow and Nicole Kidman."

Pops' passion for fashion has been translated into a line called Pipay. She personally chooses the designs, colors and materials for the shirts, bags and accessories she sells. In her spare time at home, Pops creates beaded accessories like bracelets and necklaces for Pipay.

A free-standing Pipay store will soon open at the upscale Shangri-La Mall, which recently signed up Pops as its celebrity endorser. Another Pipay store is set to open at Ricky Reyes' Beauty Central in Greenhills early next year.

Favorite bags. "The black Chanel leather backpack from Hawaii given to me as a gift; this beaded shoulder bag which I got from Marshalls in the States for only $12; and another beaded fuschia bag which Regine (Velasquez) gave me as a Christmas gift.

"In my recent trip to Hong Kong, I bought this Chinese bag which looks like a take-out food box. Ayen Munji gave me a black Versace handbag."

Favorite shoes. "My Nine West half-boots which I always use when I travel. I bought red loafers at Nine West from the States, but I haven't worn them yet."

Favorite sandals. "I love these sandals with animal print which I got in Japan, and these Roman sandals made of snakeskin. Martin's mom gave me beaded slip-ons and Martin also gave me light blue Louis Vuitton sandals with white flowers."

Favorite perfume: "Joe Malone, and a new scent, Creed, which I bought in New York last month."

Favorite concert outfit. "This fully-beaded Badong Bernal costume which I used in my 'Escapade' concert at the Ultra in 1990."

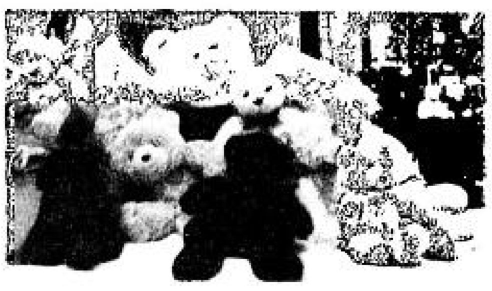
Favorite gowns. "I go to different designers for formal wear, like Rajo Laurel, Inno Sotto, Steve de Leon, Maxie Cinco, Randy Ortiz, Joe Salazar or Pepito Albert."

Favorite sleepwear. "Cotton floral pajamas with matching tank tops."

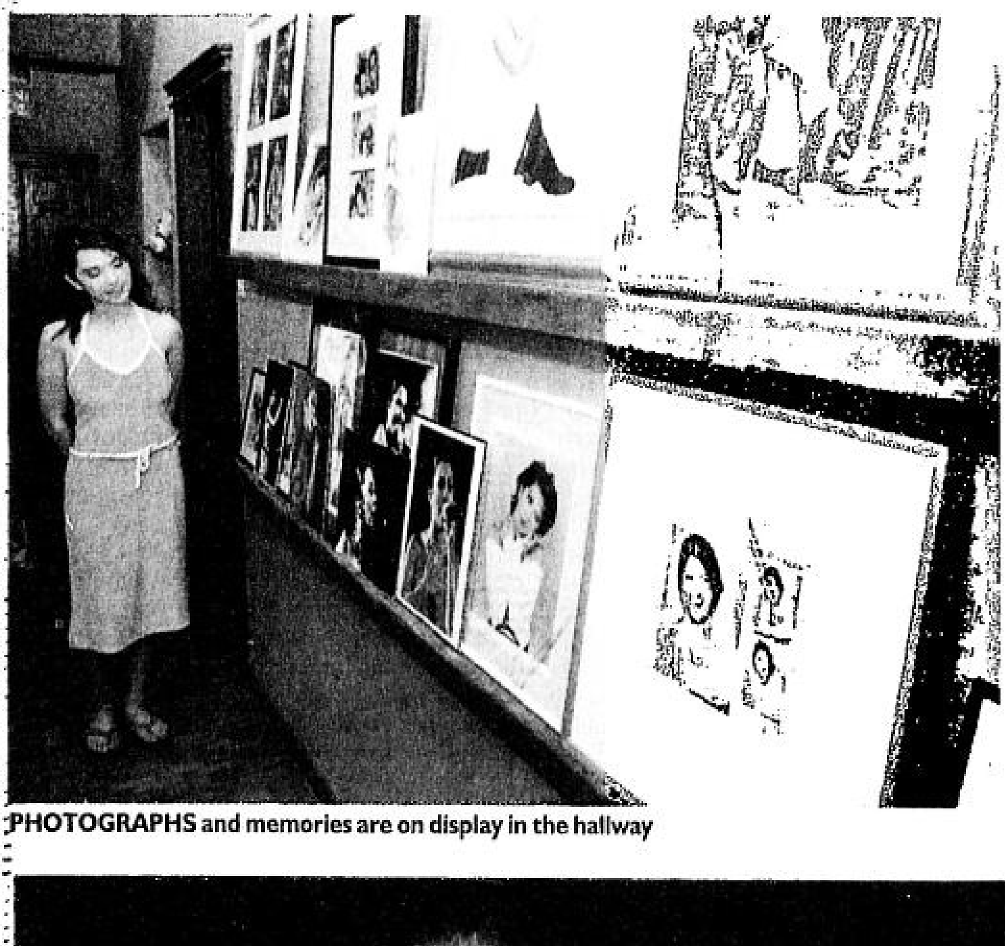
Favorite hats: "I often travel with my DKNY black beret. I also love my black Tasmanian Devil hat and my Vietnam native hat which I bought when my kids and I went on an Asian cruise."

BAG LADY chooses.

BEADED BUSTIER and teddy bears (below) are among her collections. One special teddy came from friend Brad's native Australia.

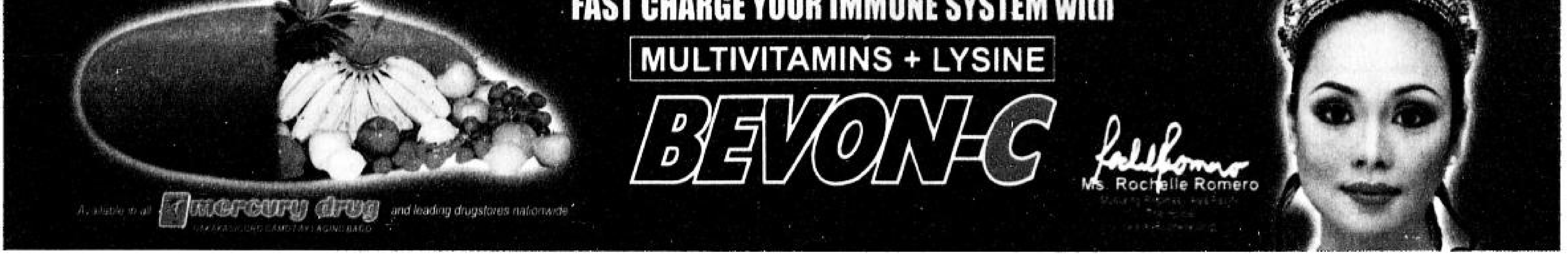


BY NATIONAL Artist Badong Bernal



PHOTOGRAPHS and memories are on display in the hallway

PIPAY'S PUPPY is a chihuahua from Gretchen B



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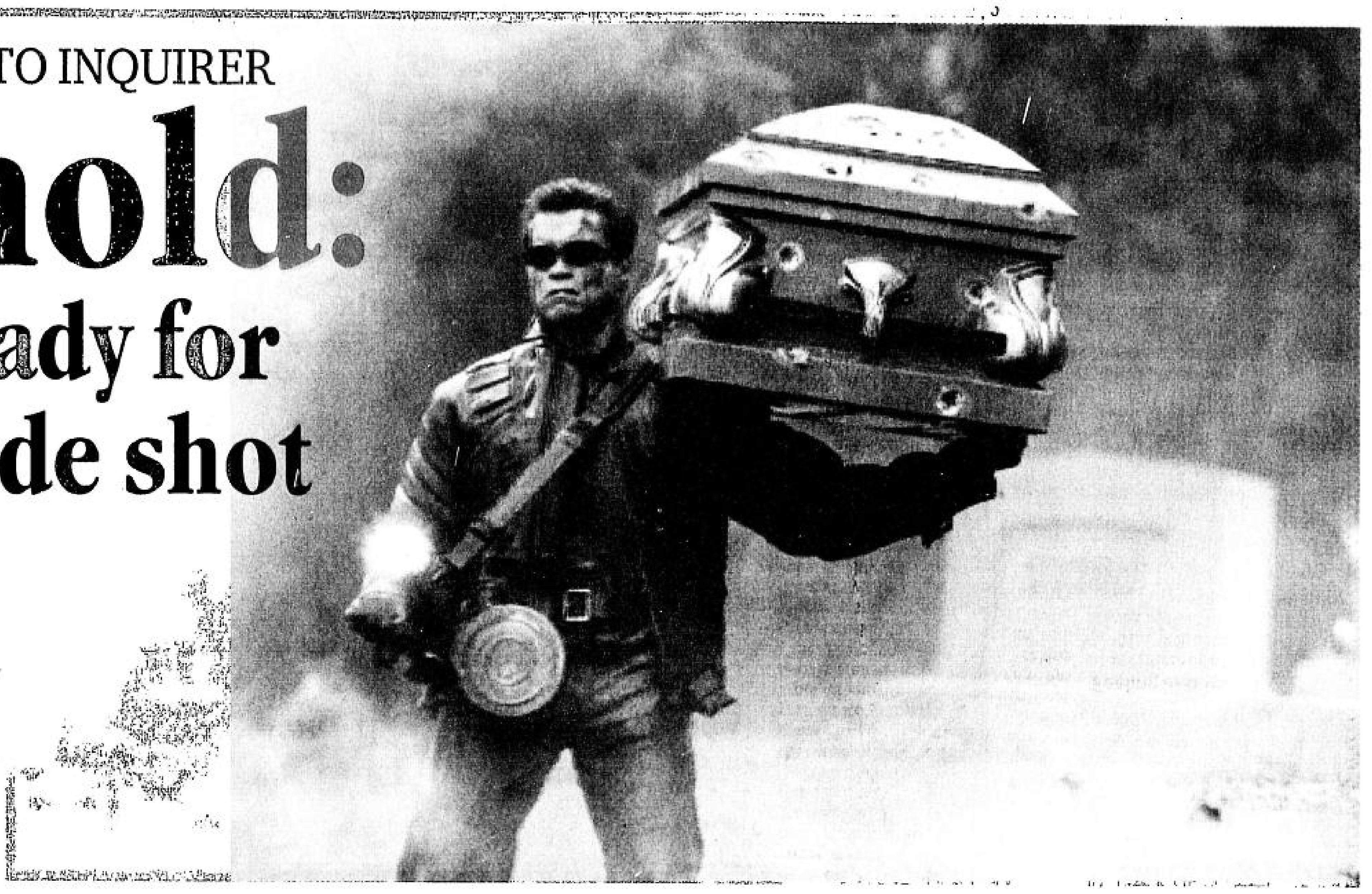
Arnold: I'm ready for my nude shot



By Ruben V. Nepales
Contributor

LOS ANGELES—"You just don't eat anything anymore."

Arnold Schwarzenegger half-jokes about the things he has had to do—or not do—to still look like a Mr. Universe when he makes his entrance in the nude again in the third installment of his blockbuster "Terminator" series.

In our second encounter with Ah-nuld, he may have gained a few wrinkles on his face but the Mr. Universe body is still rippling underneath the black pinstriped coat, white silk dress shirt and blue jeans. Even his black cowboy boots look formidable: The deadly pointed tips and heels are covered in gleaming brass. You don't want to be on the receiving end of these pointed boots.

He puts down the de rigueur stogie—snuffed out—on the table. This morning, in a vacant downtown LA building that is part of a film studio where "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines" was partly filmed, the bruited-about California gubernatorial candidate dwells on the pressures of appearing nude at 55 years old.

> 'In America, there are many more foreign actors coming in here. We have more people from overseas, especially from Asian countries. All these people have been helping to make American action movies look better'

Work out, work out

"I tell you, when you do a nude scene like that, and you know that millions of people are going to watch it, it gives you an inspiration unlike anything else," he says. "Every time they say on the set, 'okay, Arnold we have an hour until we need you again,' I run (he makes a whizzing sound) back to the gym in my trailer and work out, and work out some more."

All that workout paid off. In "T3," he still looks buff when he makes his naked entrance to save the world from those darn evil machines, and when he subsequently enters a honky-tonk bar on a ladies' night.

But he says, in that familiar voice with an Austrian accent, "The body, of course, has changed. It's 20 years later. So now you don't train as hard anymore. I only train an hour a day. Since then, I've suffered many battle wounds. I had motorcycle accidents. I broke ribs and almost threw my hip out there.

"There was a skiing accident, the heart surgery, and all these things happening so you have to concentrate on getting back in shape again. So I began going back to the gym, working out with my old training partners whom I had back 10, 20 years ago, and training two or three hours a day. It's harder now to get into that kind of shape than it was 20 years ago."

Becoming obsolete

The youngest winner ever of the Mr. Universe title also had to watch his diet.

"Twenty years ago, I did not have to watch what I ate because my metabolism rate was much faster. Today, even though you do all the workout, you can gain fat easier because your metabolism rate is slower. So you watch what you eat, which has never been my specialty, may I remind you.

"I really have to cut out the bread, the potatoes and the dessert. You have to be really disciplined."

He says that his Terminator cyborg character, T-101, is facing tough challenges as well.

"He realizes that in 1984, he was the supreme model but every time he comes back, it's getting tougher because technology has changed and there's someone better coming back, like the T-1000 (memorably played by Robert Patrick) last time and now, the T-X (Kristanna Loken). These models are more sophisticated and they can do more things.

"My character realizes that I'm becoming an obsolete model. I cannot just rely on my strength and on my firing power because this female (Kristanna's cyborg)—that's not really a female underneath, it's a machine—this robot that was sent back through time is much more sophisticated, more powerful, smarter and quicker. She can also produce weapons any time she opens her hand. She can have a weapon at will. She has an effect on other machines so that is very dangerous to me."

New blood needed

Of course, one of the nine international journalists present pounces on the opportunity to ask Arnold: Do you feel the same way in Hollywood, with new, younger guys like Vin Diesel coming in?

"Look, in every field, there are always new people coming in," he answers with the smooth savvy of a politician and a superstar. (He is the most gracious A-list star this INQUIRER correspondent has interviewed.) "I think that is healthy. If you ask me, it is better if no one new would come up, I would say no. We need new blood.

"It doesn't mean that I have to move on. It just means I have to recreate myself all the time. I have to make sure that I go into other types of movies. These are the new challenges that I face now.

"It's a challenge how you hold on to the career which you have had for 25 years. How do you gracefully reinvent yourself so you can go into different types of movies? Sean Connery has been extremely successful. And so has Clint Eastwood; he's still making great movies. He has become an icon. People respect him more than they respect anybody because of what he's done in his career. So these are the new challenges. That's the way life is.

Jackie Chan

"I knew there was a point in doing comedies," adds the father of four kids whose ages range from 13 to five. "I shouldn't rely on action movies. I'm always trying different types of things."

Still on challenges, how will the popularity of Hong Kong action style movies affect his latest "Terminator" outing?

"I'm going to see Jackie Chan this week," he prefaces his reply. "I'm doing a cameo in his movie 'Around the World in 80 Days.' I'm a big fan of his. When you discuss Hong Kong movies, you have to mention Jackie Chan because he's the king. He's royalty over there, especially in the action genre.

"Nothing has really changed. But what is good is, people from that part of the world are becoming more recognized today. They have been doing films for a long time, too. Now the world has become much more global.

Conan the Governor

"In America, there are many more foreign actors coming in here. We have more people from overseas, especially from Asian countries who have been coming over here to do stunts and the wild shots. All these people have been helping to make American action movies look better.

"So this is a terrific development. Now people are demanding better stories. That's the only change I've seen."

Since the journalists have been asked three times this morning (four times, if you include an e-mail request) not to ask him The Question (is he or is he not running for governor?), questions about Arnold the Governor turn to those about Arnold as Conan the Barbarian again.

"They've talked to me about 'Conan,'" says the most famous Republican married to a Democrat (journalist Maria Shriver of the Kennedy clan). " It's a matter of seeing the final script, who is directing and making the final decision. I'm fortunate to do movies that lend themselves to sequels like this 'Terminator,' 'Total Recall,' 'Conan' and 'Twins.' Everywhere I go, people ask me about these movies all the time."

Feeling like Terminator

Will there be a "T4"?

"This is a decision that has to be driven by the fans, not by the studio," replies the founder of the Inner City Games Foundation, which provides after-school programs to thousands of kids across the US. "You don't want to do a sequel based on an artificial demand. There has to be a need out there, that people want to see more of 'Terminator,' and then it makes sense to make another 'Terminator' movie."

For now, putting on the familiar all-black Terminator get-up after his initial buck-naked scenes was a breeze.

"It was very easy to slip back into the character. When you put on that leather jacket, the sunglasses, sit on that motorcycle, it makes you feel right away like the Terminator. So attitude-wise, it was like I just did the last movie yesterday."

'Please don't run, Ah-nuld'

LOS ANGELES—Die-hard fans of "Terminator" action star Arnold Schwarzenegger on Wednesday begged their hero not to come back—or not as a politician, at any rate.

The fans chose the opening of the actor's latest signature movie, "Terminator 3: The Rise of the Machines," to ask him not to run for office as governor of California, amid speculation that he is about to do so.

The Un-official Schwarzenegger Fan Club set up camp outside Hollywood's historic Chinese Theater to drive home their point: Give "Arnie" an Oscar, not a seal of office.

"We want him to stay out of politics because it is a very corrupt and dirty game," said the club's co-founder, 70-year-old British-born Los Angeles real estate entrepreneur Chris Shabel.

"It would be so tragic to see him get into something so sordid when he is a universally loved movie star who can hold his head high and it would be a shame for the cinema industry to lose such a great star."

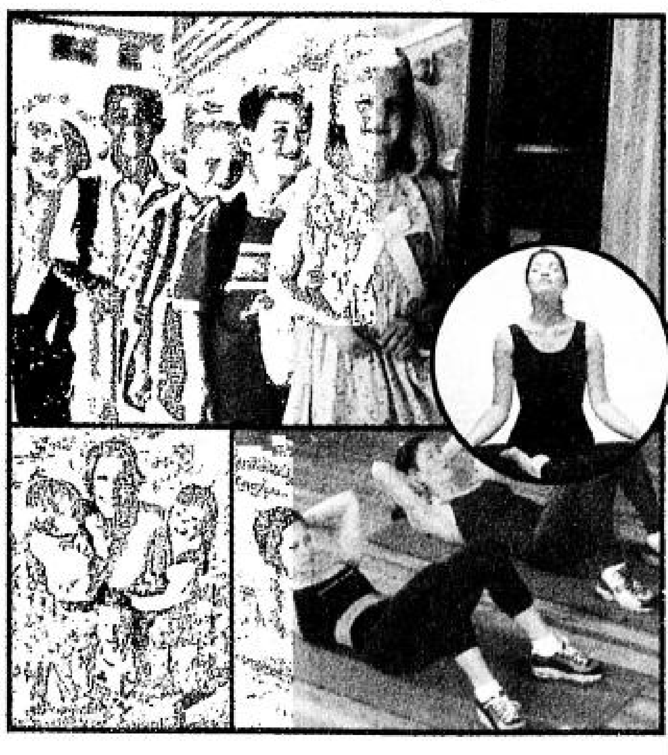
Speculation is rife in California that the Republican Party activist and film star is poised to announce he will run for governor if a campaign to oust Democrat incumbent Gray Davis in early elections succeeds.

Austrian-born Schwarzenegger's political advisor George Gorton has said that the former Mr. Universe body-building champion would only decide whether to run for office after the opening of his new movie.

But Shabel and the 100-odd fellow fans are adamant that such a move

'PLEASE/ C6

They're back. How about you?



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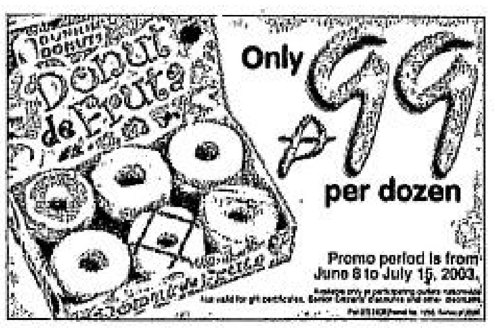
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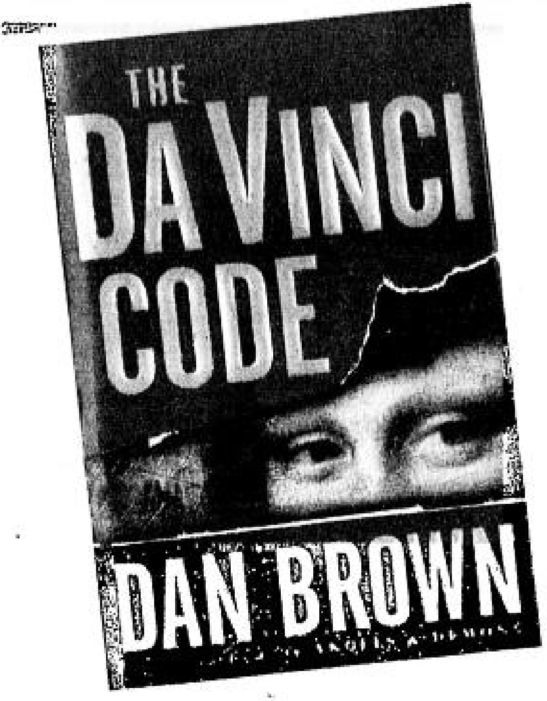
'Code' read

Intoxicating in its intrigue, 'The Da Vinci Code' links real history and classic conspiracy theory in an efficient if uneven mystery



"The Da Vinci Code"
By Dan Brown
Doubleday, New York,
2003, 454 pages

By Ruel S. De Vera

"FIENDISHLY clever" is one of the phrases used to describe a key character from Dan Brown's "The Da Vinci Code." That could very well describe this book, a unique work of fiction that is equal parts history textbook, "Ripley's Believe It or Not" and, well, crossword puzzle.

REVIEW

"Code" is Brown's fourth book, his second featuring the eccentric stylings of Harvard-based Robert Langdon, an expert in religious symbols.

Langdon first appeared in Brown's "Angels and Demons," which focused on a murder and a conspiracy within the Vatican itself. Well, Langdon has found himself in yet another intellectual labyrinth—and Brown has actually upped the stakes a bit.

In Paris to meet with Jacques Saunière, the curator of the Louvre, Langdon finds himself arrested for possible involvement in the murder of the very same man he came to meet.

Rescued by lovely Sophie, the curator's cryptologist granddaughter, Langdon must now elude the authorities while trying to solve a curious mystery—one that involves a message hidden in the world's most famous painting and the masterpiece of genius Leonardo da Vinci, "The Mona Lisa."

Ostensibly a mystery novel, "Code" defies easy description.

Chase

Like the readers themselves, Langdon will be surprised by what he finds as he chases the truth.

"Code" takes a bizarre and yet irresistible turn toward history's own exotica—a grand plot that involves a secret organization called the Priory of Sion, the ultra-conservative Catholic prelature of the Opus Dei—and, believe it or not, the Holy Grail itself. That's not a metaphor.

That is as pedestrian a description as you will find of "Code," a very complex book that intertwines historical fact, modern fiction and a generous amount of coincidence. In solving the series of murders, the reader will stumble upon surprising pieces of world lore as well as some disturbing pieces of knowledge.

"Fact," the book explains, "The Priory of Sion—a European secret society founded in 1099—is a real organization… [with members such as] Sir Isaac Newton, Botticelli, Victor Hugo and Leonardo da Vinci."

Think of it as Mensa Beyond Time. Brown clarifies that "all descriptions of artwork, architecture, documents and secret rituals in this novel are accurate." And there is a lot of the aforementioned artwork and such in "Code."

It would be extremely difficult to reveal any more about the plot of "Code" without giving away too much. But let the unaware be warned: If you are someone who does not want his notions about the origins of the Catholic faith challenged, then this book is definitely not for you.

Armed with a hefty parade of historical analysis, Brown unflinchingly presents his take on the birth of the Church, the writing of the New Testament and the core nature of Christian worship—as well as the history of the Opus Dei. Not exactly airport reading, indeed. But all that is just the mother-of-pearl surrounding the music box of "Code's" central conceit.

Puzzle after puzzle

Brown wraps this historical Rubik's Cube in one puzzle after another. Readers become amateur code-breakers themselves, seeing if they will be able to solve the numerous mind-teasers before our protagonists do.

Aside from the rather surprising and very intriguing historical trivia offered by Brown, the puzzles themselves make up by far the book's most compelling elements.

And take note, there are several different kinds of puzzles, from word games to Fibonacci's Sequence to "Name That Heretic." Okay, so that last one isn't real, but in Brown's dense fictional strategy, it becomes increasingly difficult to keep your mind from reeling.

There is literally so much information packed into this package, it's hard to figure out where to even begin talking about it.

Truth be told, the novel's plot clearly pales in comparison with the grand mystery "Code" that pulls out of Da Vinci's robes. While Langdon is clearly intellectually capable, he is not exactly hero material.

That makes him a worthy protagonist as he seems to be barely solving the puzzles, someone clearly better suited being a lifeline on "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" than Indiana Jones. For this, readers will root for Langdon, wanting him to succeed even if the other characters seem a bit contrived.

For one, Sophie is a cryptologist—how convenient is that, pretty and smart. The antagonist, a mysterious man initially called only The Teacher, seems to be exceedingly manipulative and successful at the beginning of "Code," but inexplicably begins to lose his touch later on.

It is a good thing that the puzzles and mysteries swirling around in "Code" are by themselves noteworthy and fascinating, because the book itself is undone by a flaccid ending. Not only does it become painfully obvious who The Teacher is, the book's central conspiracy is unraveled just too easily.

The denouement is thus a serious letdown, considering the mental calisthenics necessary to even get to that point. Though there are parts full of action, most of "Code" actually involves two or three people conversing intensely about some esoteric semantic refer-

'CODE'/ D4

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Christine Jacob, swimmer and mot

AS A YOUNG swimmer who represented her country in the Southeast Asian Games and the Olympics, and now as a mother who strives to give her kids the best in life, Christine Jacob is living proof that great things come to those who work hard and do so with all their heart.

Multi-awarded Swimmer

"My dad loves the water," Christine Jacob replies when asked how she was introduced to swimming. "He wanted all of us, even my brothers, to know how to swim so we at least know and we would not drown. My dad loves the beach so we had to take swimming lessons early on. We didn't realize that we could say no," she says before giving a hearty laugh.

So went her introduction to swimming, for which she developed a passion. In fact, she never had qualms about having to include swim practice in her daily routine. "When I started, I had to swim every afternoon. Then, once I joined international competitions, I had to swim twice a day. I had to wake up early to swim, then go to school, head home, swim again, study, then sleep early in preparation for the same routine the next day. That was my life for so long. So, forget social life," she says.

Her prayers, perseverance and sacrifice paid off, however, with her two gold medal wins in the 1983 South East Asian Games in Singapore for the 100-meter and 200-meter backstroke categories. Her winning streak continued as she bagged nine gold medals in the SEA age group competitions held the same year, followed by eight more in the same competition the next year. In 1984, Christine fulfilled a lifelong dream when she became a member of the country's official Olympic team.

The awards she has garnered, along with the seven Philippine swimming records she established during her career, made her truly deserving of being named the country's most outstanding swimmer for four consecutive years. To this day, Christine holds the Philippine record for the 800-meter freestyle, a feat nobody has bettered.

More than the international awards and recognition, Christine says the sport of swimming has given her other things that have left a more lasting impression. "Discipline, for one, also leadership and commitment. Swimming made me stronger. It made me more focused," she explains, "It helped me through my ups and downs. It helped me to just keep going. If it wasn't for swimming, I would have had a hard time dealing with the real world." Christine may have already retired from competitive swimming, yet her character and champion spirit continue to stand out.

Full-time Mother

Christine's kids - Paolo Antonio, 2; and Maria Gabrielle, a year old; plus another one on the way (as of this writing, she is six months pregnant) - have allowed her to be a role model in a league apart from sports. This time around, it's motherhood.

Compared to being an athlete, the task of being a full-time mother is more challenging. "When I was still a swimmer, I only had to worry about myself," Christine confesses, "I did not have to worry about anybody. But now that I am a mother, I have to take care of my kids, take care of my husband. I don't even think of myself anymore. Forget doing anything for yourself because your time has to go to them, especially while the kids are still young. They keep me busier than my career. But it's rewarding. Hearing them say 'I love you,' or 'Big hug!', nothing can beat those rewards."

Recognizing the benefits of sports involvement, Christine admits to being a frustrated sports mom, which is why this early, she already allows her kids to swim and bowl, two activities they love doing together as a family on weekends.

As someone who enjoys living life to the fullest, Christine dreams of nothing for her children but the best of what life has to offer. "My wish is that they stay away from drugs, alcohol, and cigarettes. All those things," she says, "I hope they find nice friends. And I hope they become close to God."

The Role of Breakfast

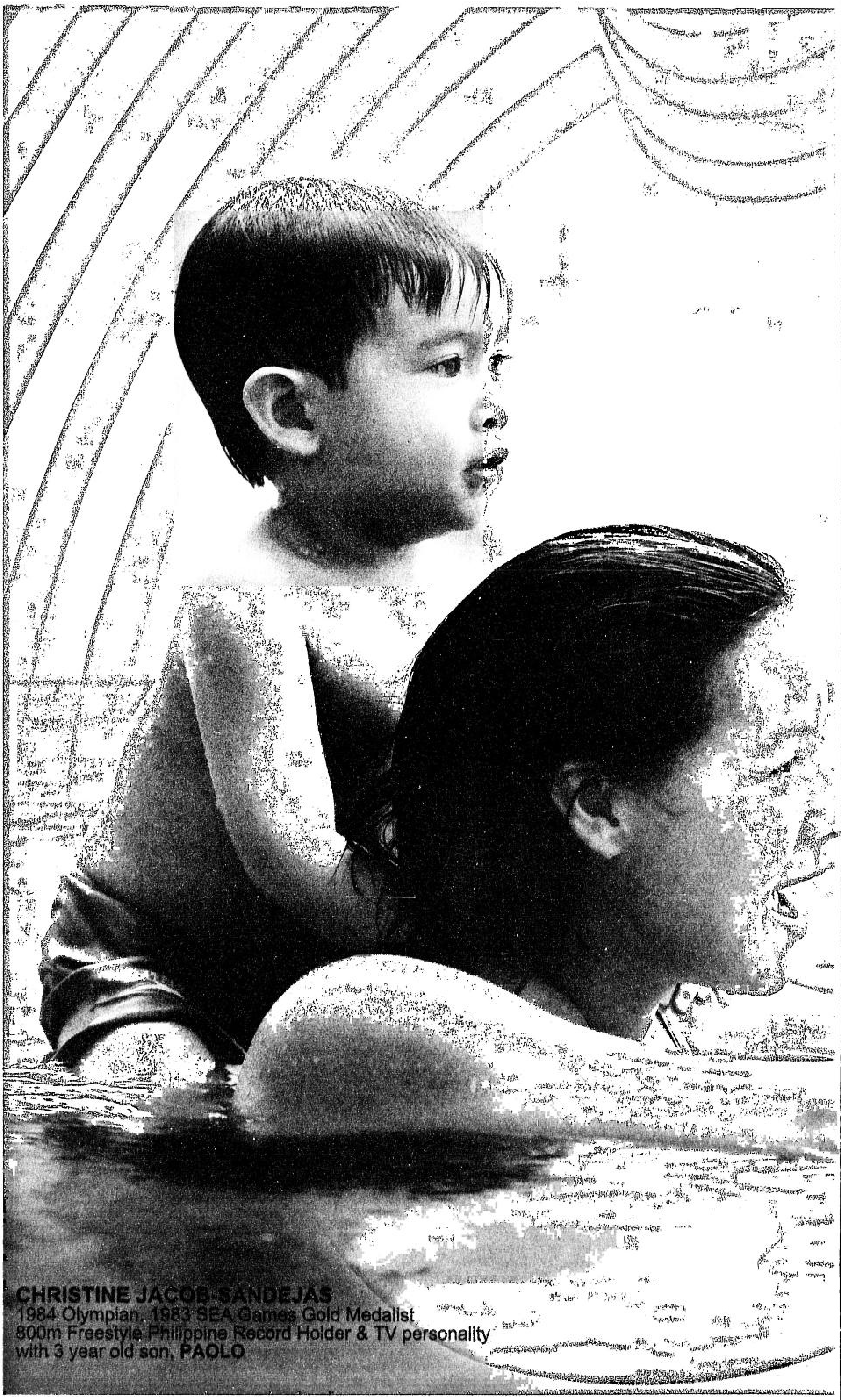
An advocate of healthy living all her life, Christine sees breakfast as a good source of sustenance for her family to start the day. She ensures that their first meal contains the right nutrients to keep her husband and kids active and energetic. That's why, apart from fiber and calcium, Christine makes sure that her family gets the right amount of vitamins to last them throughout the day. For that, she trusts MILO, her family's favorite chocolate drink, to do the job.

MILO has been a big part of Christine's growing up years. "When I was much younger, I drank only MILO," she says. And knowing how it has contributed to her health as an active child, she provides her own kids wi the Olympic energy drink everyday, e pecially now that it is fortified wi Actigen-E.

Actigen-E, which stands for "active generates energy", is a combination B-vitamins and other essential micr nutrients needed for the optimal r lease of energy from food.

Secret to Success

Christine Jacob gives and does h best in whatever endeavor she unde takes. With MILO a daily part of h family's diet, she is confident that th are getting good nutrition, and th will face the challenges of life the w she did as a champion swimmer, ar the way she's succeeding as a mother.



CHRISTINE JACOB-SANDEJAS
1984 Olympian, 1983 SEA Games Gold Medalist
800m Freestyle Philippine Record Holder & TV personality
with 3 year old son, **PAOLO**

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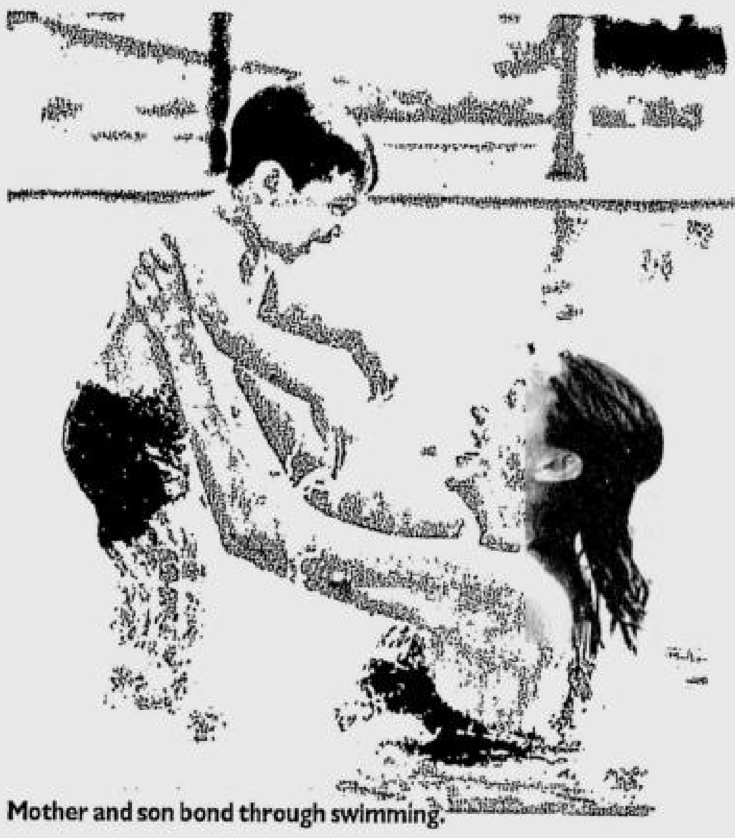
her par excellence

A tender moment. Christine cradles son Paolo in her arms.

Cheers! Christine and son Paolo share a healthy breakfast.



Mother and son bond through swimming.

A sports mom says, "When my kids grow up, I hope I get at least one swimmer out of them."

MILO has been a big part of Christine's growing up years. 'When I was much younger, I drank only MILO,' she says. And knowing how it has contributed to her health as an active child, she provides her own kids with the Olympic energy drink everyday, especially now that it is fortified with Actigen-E.

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*the **extra energy***
so he can make a splash just like you did.

*So Mom, give him **MILO***
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2. *Add 2 tbsps. of CARNATION Condensada.*
3. *Add cold water and ice. Stir briskly.*

One More Time!

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Book celebrates beauty queens and pageants

MABUHAY TO BEAUTY!
Profiles of Beauties and Essays on Pageants
Edited by
JOSE WENDELL P. CAPILI
WITH FIDELIS S. BLAS JEFFREY R. JETURIAN
NORMAN TINIO JOSEPH M. VITUG
AND CESAR M. EVANGELISTA

BEAUTY queens and beauty pageants are as dear to Filipino hearts as music, dance, basketball and billiards.

Yet, very little has been written in the country about this treasured aspect of Philippine culture.

To begin to fill this gap, an intrepid band of beauty enthusiasts have written a book, "Mabuhay to Beauty! Profiles of Beauties and Essays on Pageants," which has recently been published by Milflores Publishing Inc.

The authors have put together humorous, informative, insightful and thoughtful profiles of beauties, reviews of pageants and a historical essay on the cultural significance of beauties and pageants in this ground-breaking and very readable book.

The essays are illustrated with pages and pages of photographs of Filipina beauty queens—from Lalaine Benette and Evangeline Pascual to Melanie Marquez and Michelle Reyes—that welcome beginners and aficionados alike to the enticing world of beauty.

The authors—general editor Jose Wendell P. Capili and co-editors Boyet Blas, Jeffrey R. Jeturian, Norman Tinio, Joseph M. Vitug and Ces Evangelista—are known for their respective achievements in their fields.

Capili is an award-winning poet and academician, Blas is a photographer/real estate manager, Jeturian an acclaimed film/TV director, Tinio a human resource development expert, Vitug an editor and Evangelista a journalist.

They are also the moving spirits behind www.mabuhaybeauties.com, a popular website.

"Mabuhay to Beauty! Profiles of Beauties and Essays on Pageants" is now available at all leading book stores nationwide at P290 a copy.

Book on Philippine-American War to be launched

ANVIL Publishing will launch "Vestiges of War," a stunning collection of essays, poems, plays and artworks by prominent writers and artists and their takes on the Philippine-American War. The launch is on July 11, 6 p.m. at the lobby of the Little Theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. The event is part of Sangandaan 2003, a week-long celebration of Filipino art and culture.

Edited by Angel Velasco Shaw and Luis H. Francia, "Vestiges of War" includes contributions by noted writers like Alfredo Navarro Salanga, Eric Gamalinda, Jessica Hagedorn, Bienvenido Lumbera, Oscar Campomanes, and the late Doreen G. Fernandez and Renato Constantino.

Works of acclaimed visual artists such as Santiago Bose, Bencab, Brenda Fajardo and Antipas Delotavo provide stunning imagery for the essays.

"Vestiges of War" is available at all National Book Store and PowerBooks branches. Call 671-9235/1899.

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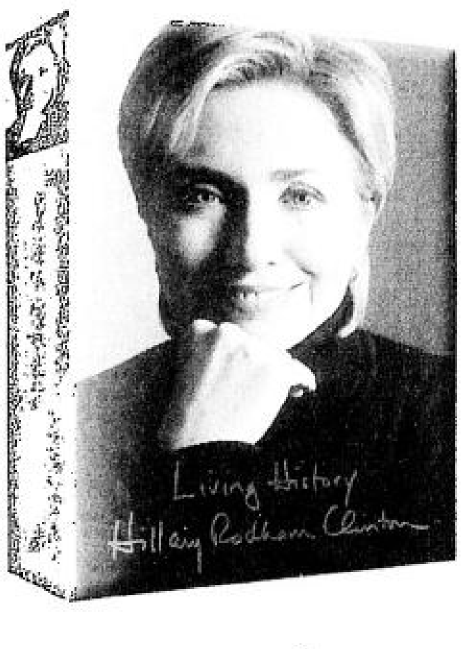
Hillary's 'Living History' now available



"LIVING History" is Hillary Rodham Clinton's revealing memoir of life with Bill Clinton and the White House years.

An instant bestseller in the US, the book chronicles her 30-year adventure in love and politics that has survived personal betrayal, relentless partisan investigations and constant public scrutiny.

Clinton writes with candor, humor and passion about her upbringing in suburban, middle-class America, her transformation from Goldwater Girl to student activist to controversial First Lady.

"Living History" captures the essence of one of the most remarkable women of our time and the challenging process by which she came to define herself and find her own voice—as a woman and as a formidable figure in American politics.

Available at National Book Store.

New fiction for the Cosmo generation

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Press has just released "Reconnaissance," a collection of short fiction by Tara FT Sering.

The book includes four short stories and the hit novella "Getting Better," which was first published by Cosmopolitan Philippines. It is part of the UP Jubilee Student Edition, launched by the UP Press in September 2002, as part of its Read UP campaign.

Sering, who used to be managing editor of Cosmo, is a refreshing new voice which bridges the usual gap between "literature" and ordinary readers who shun the literary as too "highfalutin." This book is very hip, very now. But it is also very well-written.

Sering is taking her M.A. in Creative Writing at the UP, and is currently editor of Summit Books. Her second book, "All the Right Moves," a novel for young adults, was published last year.

"Reconnaissance" is the first of the 2003 series of the UP Jubilee Student Edition, which aims to make the best of contemporary Philippine literature by both established and young writers more accessible to the public, and especially to students and teachers.

Forthcoming are a reprint of Erwin Castillo's celebrated novel, "The Firewalkers"; a new edition of the long out-of-print collection by Johnny Gatbonton, "Little Reports"; "Tinik sa Dila," a collection of the poetry in Filipino by Cirilo F. Bautista; and three first books by award-winning young writers: "Welostit" by Romina Gonzalez, "Last Order sa Penguin" by Chris Martinez and "Onyx" by Romulo Baquiran Jr.

The 2002 series included six books by some of the country's most distinguished writers: "(A)lamat at (H)istorya" by new National Artist for Literature Virgilio Almario, "Poems and Parables" by Gemino H. Abad, "Utos ng Hari" by Jun Cruz Reyes, "The Old Timer" by Jose Y. Dalisay, Jr., "Eight Stories" by Alfred A. Yuson and "Kung Baga sa Bigas" by Jose F. Lacaba; and three first books, "Smaller and Smaller Circles" by F.H. Batacan, "Marginal Bliss" by Carlomar Daoana and "Barriotic Punk" by Mes de Guzman.

Most of these books have won national awards, the latest being "Smaller and Smaller Circles," which has been named winner of the Madrigal-Gonzalez Best First Book Award by the UP Institute of Creative Writing. In 1999, it won the Carlos Palanca Grand Prize for the novel.

"Reconnaissance" by Tara FT Sering is available in the new UP Press Bookstore at the Balay Kalinaw in the Diliman campus and at different National Book Store and PowerBooks branches in Metro Manila.

"Reconnaissance" and the rest of the 2003 series of the Jubilee Student Edition will also be available at the Manila International Book Fair this September.

'Code' read

From page D1

ence or other. That is not an exaggeration.

Which is too bad, because in its best moments, "Code" is striking in its uniqueness, unrelenting with its surprises and quite inventive with its secrets. "Code" seduces the reader with its delicious traps—a naked body replicating The Vitruvian Man, a Caravaggio ripped off the wall, a code in Da Vinci's painting itself, and enough symbolic sequencing to give readers flashbacks from the logic portion of diagnostic exams.

It thus becomes a fun question to ask what great world mystery Langdon will tackle next—something involving the Shroud of Turin, perhaps? Langdon makes for a good returning character, and despite its flaws, "Code" displays an impressive formula that combines mind games and an interest in the unknown.

In its own way, "Code" is a greater book than the final product would indicate simply for its capacity to make readers ponder existential and historical questions—making readers not only think, but challenging them for what they presume they know.

An efficient if uneven mystery, Dan Brown's "The Da Vinci Code" is an audacious, ambitious project that falls just short of being mind-bending, but remains resolutely challenging and irresistible.

Available in hardcover from PowerBooks and selected National Book Store branches.

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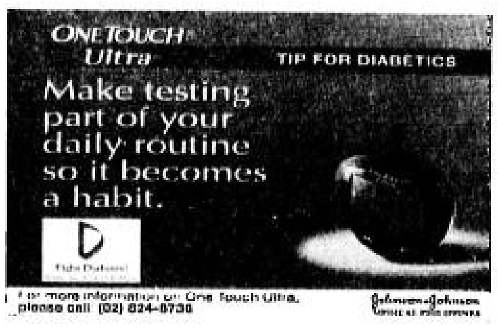
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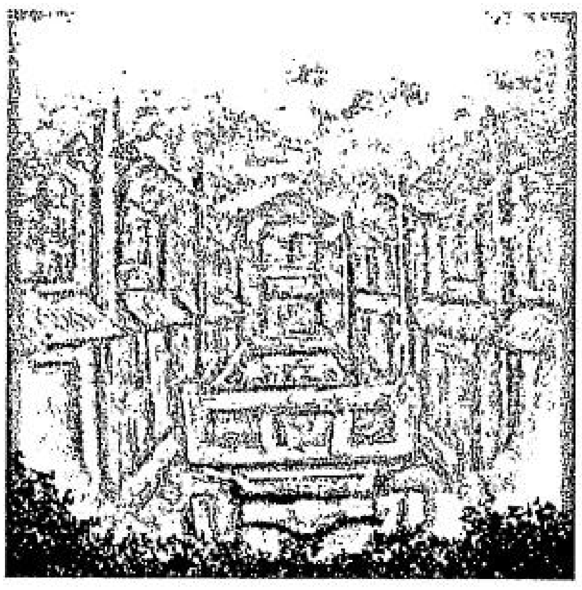
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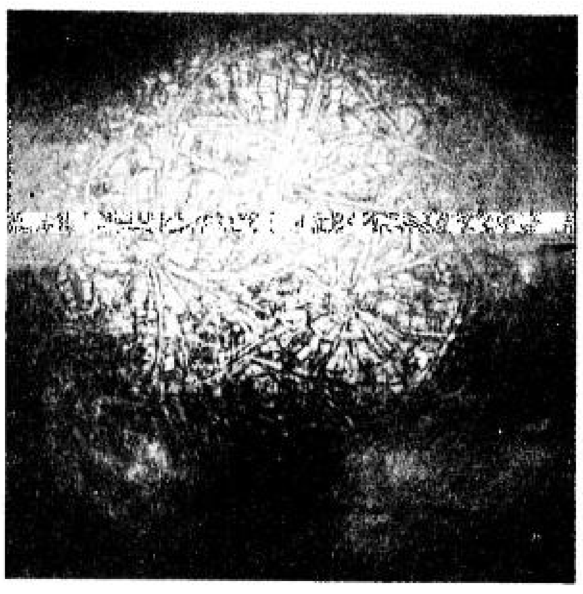
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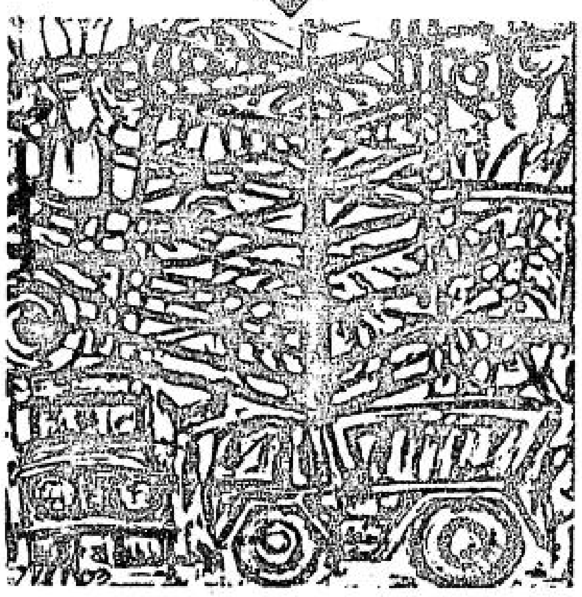
"LOAD"

Ferdie Montemayor's vision is of a cityscape empty of humanity

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City symphony in flame-red, pitch-black and midnight-blue

By Constantino C. Tejero

JUST as other artists find inspirations in their hometowns, such as Danilo Dalena's Pakil and José Blanco's Angono, Ferdinand Montemayor has found in Antipolo an enduring subject for his art.

A continuation of his series of paintings depicting his ever-changing town is the exhibit "Loaded," until July 8 in West Gallery at Artwalk, 4/L SM Megamall A.

These are two large-scale paintings in oil on canvas, a small one, and a panoramic polyptich consisting of nine 12" x 48" pieces. They're mostly monochromatic, the paint thickly applied, the forms boldly outlined, the strokes and colors expressionist.

Montemayor's paintings have been compared to Manny Baldemor's in their multiple-image depictions of the bustling Philippine town, but nothing can be more different. Whereas Baldemor's are colorful festive rural scenes, Montemayor's are dark visions of the encroachment of progress in a town.

Fronting this exhibit is "1," a bird's-eye view of the town crammed with buildings and intersections, a planet unto itself. The maroon orb highlighted with beige floating in black space looks like a mangosteen dabbed with cream.

Why the title? "*Nag-iisang mundo lang 'yan*," says the artist. "Why are we abusing it? We have nowhere else to go. That's a very simple idea—just like 'The Little Prince.' "

"Trak" is a 12" x 12" piece in red monochrome showing a frontal view of a truck passing through a street rowed on both sides with tenement housing, with the whitish orb of the sun and street lamps overhead. The sense of claustrophobia and overload is conveyed by the monolithic structure forcing itself through what looks like an alley walled in by buildings, intensified by the heat of red and white, on a canvas that's almost miniature.

"Load" shows thick black outlines of jeepneys and a cell-site tower highlighted with ochre on a turquoise background, looking like a closeup of a cobweb

CITY SYMPHONY/ E2

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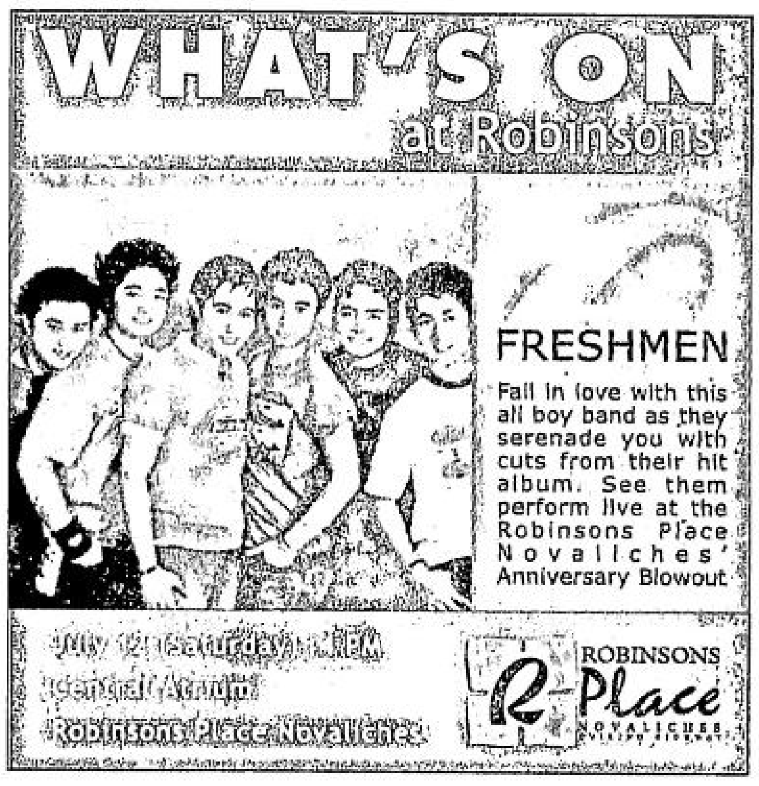

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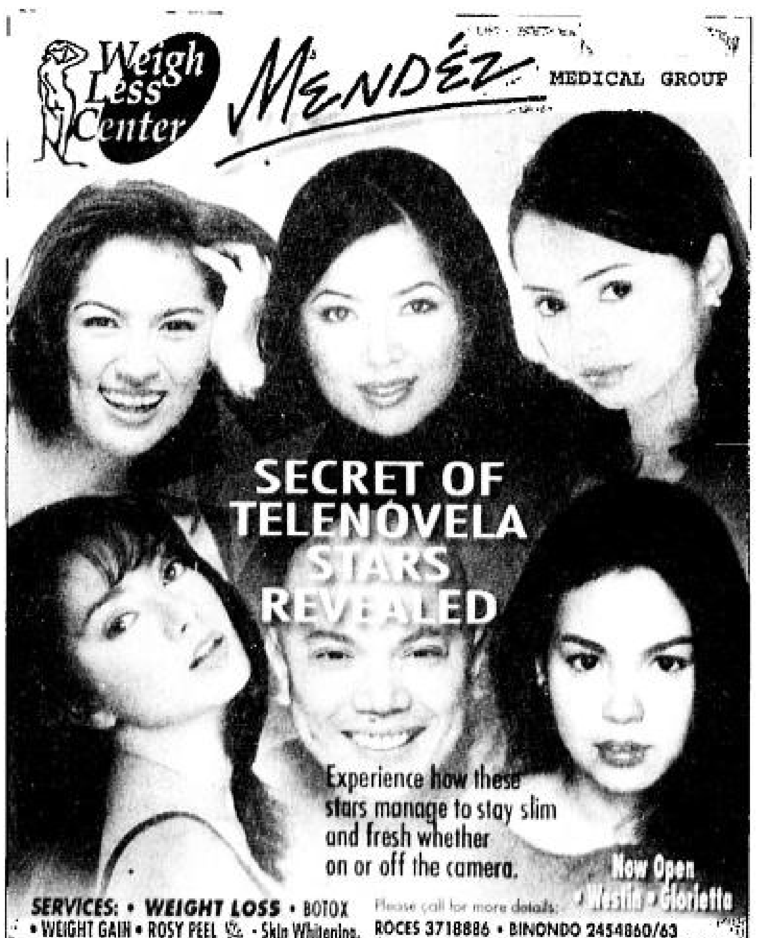
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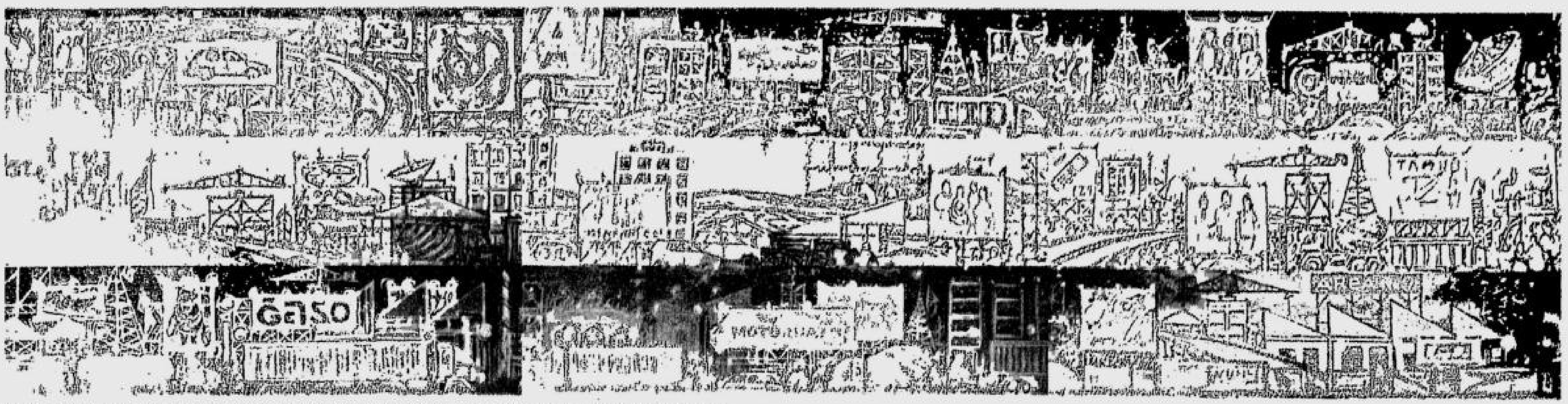


"24 HRS." depicts urban scenes from daytime to nighttime through the progression of light to dark.

City symphony in flame-red . . .

From page E1

against the sky.

Vision of dystopia

"24 Hrs." depicts urban scenes from daytime to nighttime through the progression of light to dark. This is a city symphony in midnight-blue, reddish-brown, gray, acid-green, greenish-white, yellow, gold, flame-red, pitch-black.

It is a a cityscape of billboards, vehicles, satellite dish, broadcast towers, oil depot, warehouses, cranes, scaffoldings, construction works, flyovers—a vision of dystopia empty of humanity. Ironically, the only signs of humanity can be found on the billboards: images of Mother and Child, street children, beggars, a family of five, a *taho* vendor, three yuppies, three sexy movie stars, along with the Nike swoosh and a fallen athlete, cell phone, car, guitar, and the inscriptions *Xerox, Gaso, Motorbay, Internet, Growth Area*.

Says Montemayor: "The paintings focus on rapid urban development and industrialization, the continuing process of how environment deals with man's material needs, the fast pace of information technologies, the effects of large-scale media advertising, and man's unending search for a more comfortable lifestyle."

He often sees this happening to his town, especially while driving by construction works gradually covering the landscape.

"Dati halos fields *lang makikita mo, ngayon* billboards *na kaliwa't kanan,"* he says. "I asked myself, What can I do as an artist? So I had to do these paintings—I don't care *kung hindi mabili*."

These pieces form part of his "Billboards" series, which he considers "not edible, *hindi mabenta*."

More saleable is his "Bayan" series, depicting the bustling activities in the town center of entertainment and commerce, the subdivisions with their urban planning of uniform houses, manicured lawns and country clubs. And there's the church as central image, often the focus of the composition.

"That's why, as you may notice, in the past 10 years *medyo bilog ang* paintings *ko*," he explains.

Then the vision turned bleaker. When he started depicting the degradation of the urban environment, and the tree replaced the church as compositional focus, he found his art wouldn't sell as much.

"Ang 'Bayan' series *hinahanap sa akin ng* collectors," he says. "I'd have to return to it, because of the money—we'll have to face it... *Dati* colorist *ako*, now it is monochromatic. I use colors based on the flag."

Filipino art as goal

When Rolly Acuña founded the Antipolo-based artists' group Salingpusa in 1984, Montemayor was part of the *barkada* of 20 or so University of the Philippines Fine Arts students who formed the original core, including Elmer Borlongan, Manuel Ocampo, Mark Justiniani, Emmanuel Garibay, Karen Flores, Tony Leaño, Neil Manalo. The group has splintered since, but Montemayor has remained.

"Our goal was to do Filipino art that was reflective of what was happening in our time," he recalls. "The Marcos regime was then ending."

Their mentor, of course, was UP professor Roberto Chabet, the exponent of Conceptual Art in the country. Though some of them may now have distanced themselves from Chabet's art theories, Montemayor still acknowledges him as his mentor.

Of Filipino artists, though, he admires most Antonio Austria and Mario Parial; and of his colleagues, Ocampo and Borlongan; while of the foreign, Chagall and Van Gogh.

He used to do abstraction and has had three exhibits of his abstract works, but abandoned it when the pieces went largely unappreciated.

He says most of those who buy his art are foreigners. "Filipinos don't collect much, and if they do, they're mostly religious subjects. So you just do the 'Bayan,' *lagyan lang ng simbahan...*"

Montemayor won the grand prize in the 1992 Metrobank Foundation National Painting Competition. He received the 13 Artists Award from the Cultural Center of the Philippines in 1994.

"Nagsimula talaga ako sa bahay-kubo, nakatutok ako doon... hanggang sa naging psychedelic," he laughs. "I really wanted to be an architect, and I also wanted to be a pilot, but fortunately *naging* artist *lang*."

Emma Navarro at Le Soufflé, Mansueto at West

VISUAL ARTS

EMMA Navarro showcases her latest nude paintings at Le Soufflé Restaurant and Wine Bar at The Fort on July 10. Complementing her collection are Joel Mendez's round Zen paintings and Ronald Ventura's recent works.

RED Mansueto will exhibit "Walls of Perfection" at the West Gallery-Megamall on July 10-22. The collection revolves around observations on how walls have changed natural and social landscapes. The show displays Mansueto's documentary eye and his environmentalism. Call 634-1284.

ERWIN Leaño comes up with a new series of nude paintings in "Figure and Ground" at the lower gallery of Boston Gallery on July 12-Aug. 6. Boston Gallery is at 72-A Boston St. corner Lantana, Cubao, QC.

WESLEY Valenzuela rolls out his cards in "Arcana" at the Big & Small Art Co. in SM Megamall. His latest mixed-media works, paintings and fiberglass sculptures are on view until July 15.

ANTHONY Fermin exhibits his new works at Syano Art Link, 19 Shanghai St., Better Living, Parañaque, until July 21.

"EDISON" by Red Mansueto

RED Mansueto presents his abstract renditions on how surroundings affect the way man thinks and feels in "Walls of Perception." The exhibit runs July 10-22 at West Gallery, SM Megamall.

THE GALLERY, at The Westin Philippine Plaza, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, features the artworks of Joel Mendez, Pedro Garcia, Henry Cainglet, Jemina Reyes and Olan Ventura.

JOEL Fabonan presents his cartoonish works in his first exhibit, "Mga Kwentong Segundamano." The show is ongoing until July 31 at Crateri Café, Tomas Morato, QC.

RAUL Lebajo portrays nature's surreal inhabitants in "Kara." The exhibit runs July 15-Aug. 3 at Galleria Duemila, SM Megamall A.

GUILIANO Flores will open his first solo show July 19 at Hiraya Gallery. The exhibit "Solitaryo" will feature a dozen paintings in oil on canvas. Hiraya is at 530 UN Ave., Ermita, Manila.

MARINA Cruz and Rodel Garcia present "Bungad" July 11-31 at Donada Art Gallery, 201 Eagle Star Condominium, Fabian de la Rosa St., Loyola Heights, QC.

FERNAN Escora's recent series in pen-and-ink will be exhibited July 12-Aug. 6 at Boston Gallery Alcove.

BERNARDO Pacquing presents his large-scale, almost visually operatic paintings in "Dummy Run" at Finale Art Gallery, SM Megamall A. The show is ongoing until July 13.

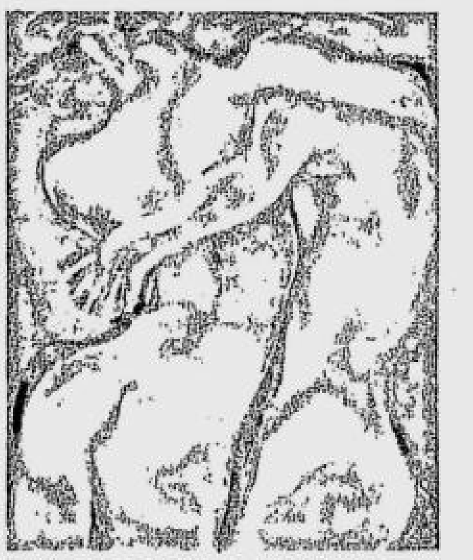
BIG Sky Mind Artists Projects Foundation invites the public to the first open house of the 18th Avenue Artists Compound on July 12-13. Its first batch of resident artists—Ronald Anading, Lena Cobangbang, Louie Cordero, Cubao Community Graphics, Jayson Oliveria and Marjorie Yu—will be presented. The compound is located at 70 18th Ave., Murphy, Cubao, QC.

THE MADRIGAL Art Center presents "Behold Thy Mother," an exhibition of paintings and furniture, until July 16. Madrigal is located at the Commerce and Museum Drives, Ayala Alabang.

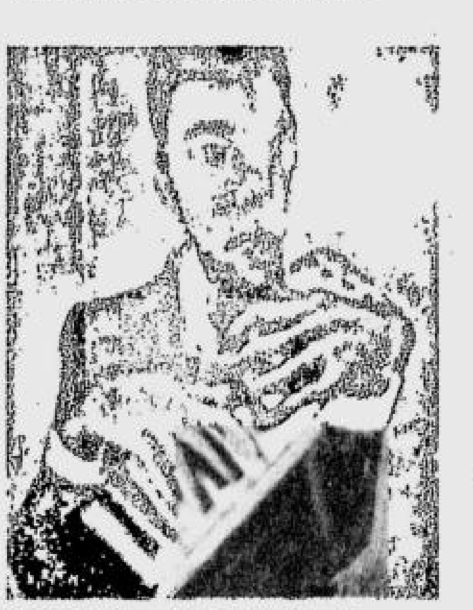
IMELDA Cajipe-Endaya will showcase her works in "Lakas at Diwa II" at Ayala Museum July 8-Aug. 2. Ayala Museum is located on the ground floor of Makati Stock Exchange Building on Ayala Avenue.

"PINTUAN," an exhibition of oils by Tina Fernandez, will be on view at Boston Gallery, July 12-Aug. 6. The show will feature the artist's recent series of antique doors.

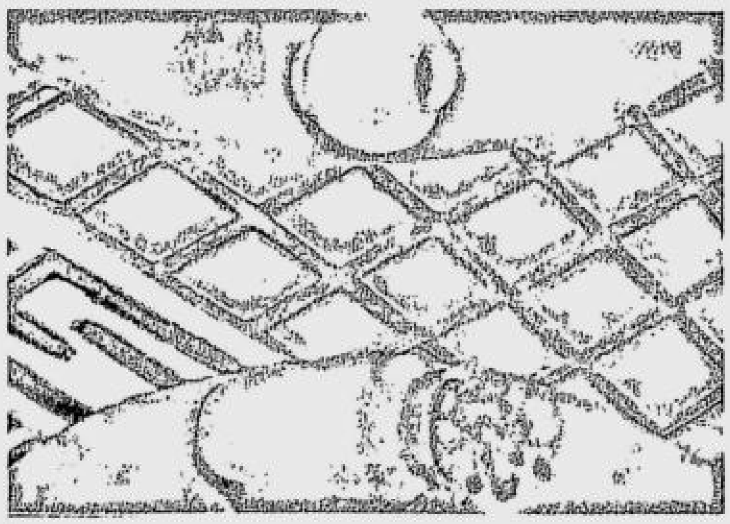
FERNANDO Sena will hold an art workshop July 9 at the following: UP Vargas Museum, QC, Wednesdays; 14-A Maalalahanin St., Teachers' Village, QC, Thursdays; Philippine Medical Women's Association building, V. Luna Road corner Malakas St., QC, Saturdays and Sundays, 9-11:30 a.m.; Triumph Bldg., Quezon Avenue, QC, Saturdays, 1:30-4 p.m. Call 924-6425 and 925-8801.



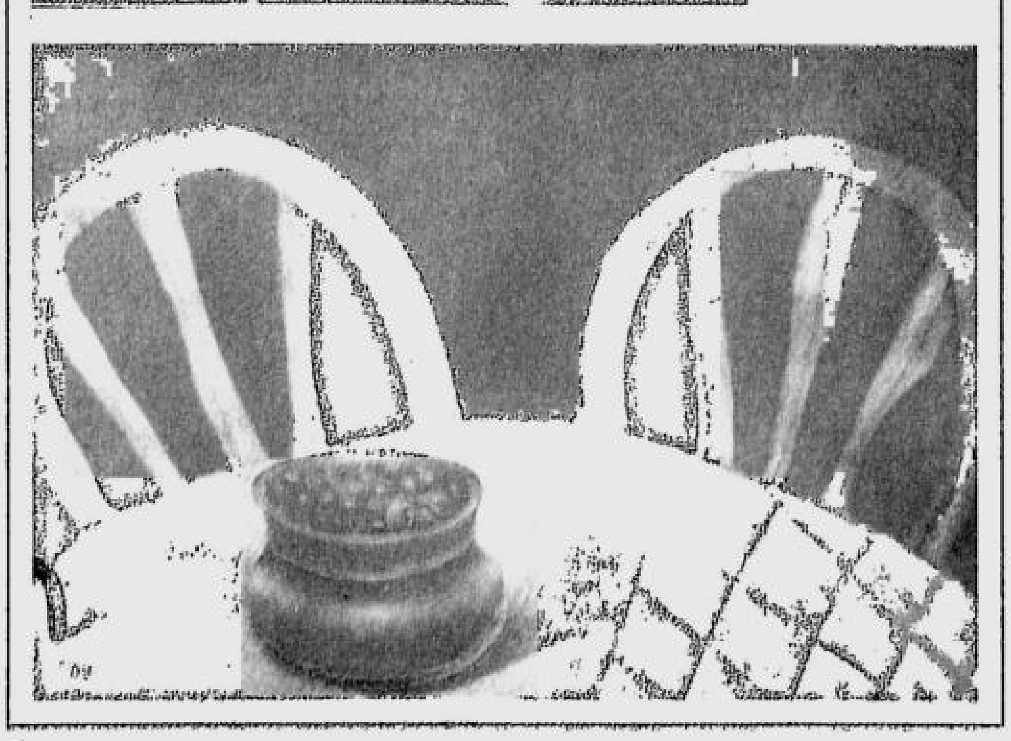
"THE EMBRACE" by Lydia Velasco

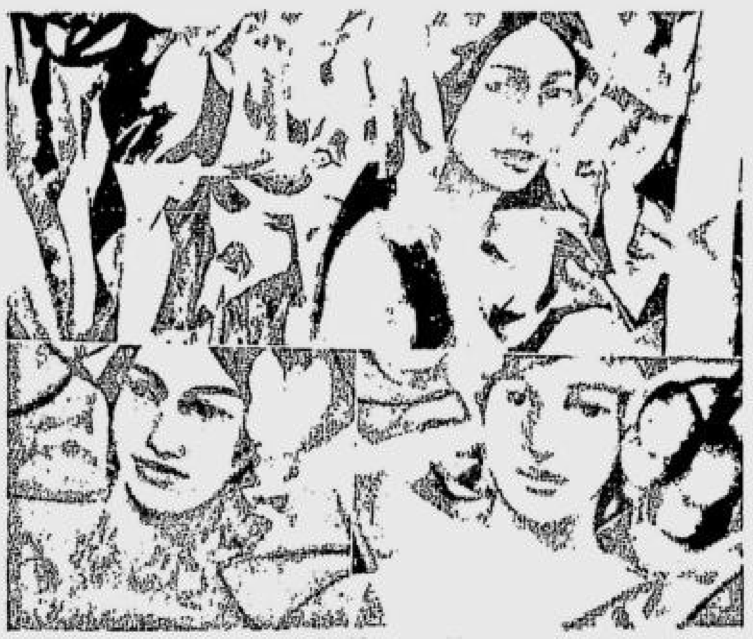


"PIANO Player" by Onib Olmedo



•**NIKULAS Lebajo mounts a show of recent works that depart from the minimalist linear and repeating patterns he has been known for. "Senses" is his 12th show in his 15-year career. It opens on July 10 at 7 p.m. at Gallery Nine of the SM Megamall. Call 687-7302.**





"NEW Muses," oil on canvas, by Hermes Alegre

Hermes Alegre teams up with American artist in 'Duo'

GALERIE Astra will open "Duet," an exhibit of new works by Hermes Alegre and New York-based American artist Travett McCandliss, on July 11.

Alegre and McCandliss met in New York when the former did a show there. The show is McCandliss' first outside of the US.

Alegre is well known to collectors and admirers for his lush paintings. He is considered one of today's best-selling young artists.

For the new show, he is departing from his bravura use of colors, choosing a more muted style and close-ups of his subjects.

McCandliss, originally from New Hampshire, studied at the School of Visual and Performing Arts at Syracuse University and the New York Studio School. His influences are Cezanne, Delacroix and Giacometti.

Galerie Astra is on the second floor of the Art Pavilion, LRI Business Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garcia (formerly Reposo) St., Makati City. Call 726-0915, 724-3032 or 895-1772.

Onib Olmedo gets unique artistic tribute

GALERIE Joaquin pays homage to the late Onib Olmedo today, his seventh death anniversary, with an exhibit. The show runs until July 21.

The guest of honor is Bettina Olmedo, the artist's widow. The Olmedo family is providing 14 rare pen-and-ink works and sketches and eight paintings, including the international auction-bound "La Musique" and "Portrait of the Artist's Daughter."

Paying homage with their works are Manny Garibay, Lydia Velasco, Nunelucio Alvarado, Kiko Escora, Jack Teotico, Gino Teosoco, Carlo Saavedra, Marcel Antonio and Justin Nuyda.

Olmedo placed seventh in the architecture board exams in the 1960s, but turned to painting in the 1970s. He won the Art Association of the Philippines and Mobil Art Awards as well as the 13 CCP Artists Award. He won a prize in the international contest in Cagnes Sur-Mer, France, and exhibited in the Netherlands, Germany, Austria and New York.

Galerie Joaquin is at 371 corner P. Guevarra St. and Montessori Lane, San Juan. Call 723-9253/9418.

EDUCATION REVOLUTION

Alumni appeal for their alma mater

By Butch Hernandez
Contributor

A FEW days before the Education Revolution's formal launch in Angeles City, through the efforts of Dr. Emmanuel Angeles and the Angeles University Foundation, the Foundation for Worldwide People Power got an appeal for assistance from the Pampanga High School Class of '65 Foundation Inc. (PHS65).

Apparently, the school was in such a bad state that the alumni were seeking a way to bring back some of its lost glory. After all, PHS used to be a center of quality learning. The late President Diosdado Macapagal, the incumbent's father, was its most notable graduate.

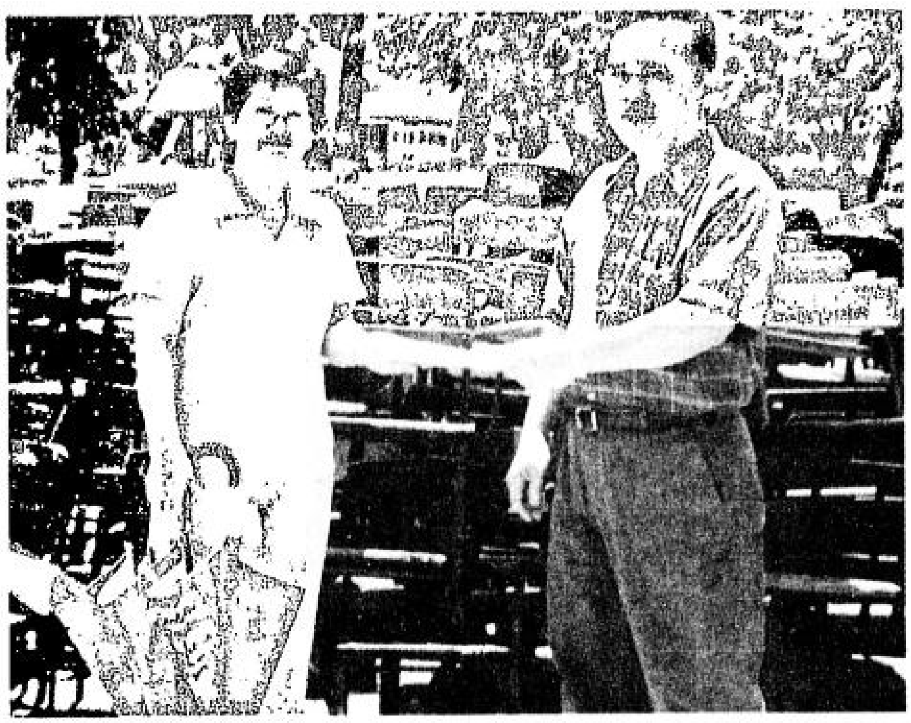
PHS65's president, Rene Alarcon, met with me in Angeles City to personally ask help for Pampanga High School.

The opportunity presented itself when FWWPP president Dr. Maria Lim Ayuyao said that Centro Escolar University's (CEU) high school department had to dispose of about 500 used but still serviceable chairs and other furniture. All that was needed was a truck to collect the chairs.

ISMAEL P. Penado, Jaycees national secretary general

RAMFREL R. Preclaro, Jaycees national executive director

BRIAN Raymond Yamsuan, Sen. Tessie Oreta's hardworking chief of staff



PAMPANGA High School acting principal Soledad Santos receives 445 chairs, 16 laboratory tables and four large display corkboards from Centro Escolar University through Rene Alarcon, president of PHS Class 65 Foundation Inc.

Rene was only too happy to make the arrangements. A few days ago, we received a copy of the letter of thanks sent by Soledad A. Santos, acting principal of PHS, to Carmita Suiza and Dr. Ayuyao at CEU.

We hope other colleges and universities could follow the example set by the university. As you can see, if you really want to help our public schools you are only limited by your creativity.

Library's a big hit

Remember our story about Elfren and Neni Sta. Romana-Cruz, and how they started a library project for the Sampaloc Site Elementary School in Parañaque City?

Well, Neni says that Mercy Yude, the school librarian cum guidance counselor, reported to her recently that the schoolchildren have been eagerly borrowing and reading books from the library. They also dutifully return them so they could borrow more books. Book donations from many other people were also received.

Neni says the latest donors were Gabrielle Zarei of St. Paul Pasig, Jose Yldefonso Bautista and Peter and Mary Yee. And Neni's list continues to grow.

She adds Zarah Gagatiga, a writer and storyteller and Xavier School librarian, together with her library science friends from the Philippine Normal University, volunteered to help catalog and process books for public libraries that are just starting.

Zarah herself has been conducting workshops on painless cataloguing for public school librarians. Welcome to the Education Revolution, Zarah!

Jaycees and the Revolution

Brian Raymond Yamsuan, Sen. Tessie Oreta's chief of staff and the significant other of PDI Libre's Cathy Cañares-Yamsuan, feels strongly about getting as many people as possible on the Education Revolution bandwagon.

Recently, he arranged for this writer to present the Education Revolution to two top officials of the Philippine Jaycees Inc.—national executive director Ramfrel Preclaro and national secretary general Ismael "Maeng" Penado.

As it turned out, Maeng and Ramfrél both own private schools so they immediately understood how priceless a good education was. Maeng administers Notre Dame of Trece Martirez in Cavite, while Ramfrel has the Malindig Institute in his home province of Marinduque.

Maeng told us that the Jaycees always prioritized education-related projects. In fact, the late Sen. Marcelo Fernan who sponsored the Adopt-A-School Act in the Senate, was himself a Jaycee. Another Jaycee is Dr. Angeles whose Angeles University Foundation oversees the Education Revolution in Central Luzon.

Maeng and Ramfrel said they would be discussing the Education Revolution in greater detail during Jaycees' annual plenary session sometime in July.

The author is the executive director of Foundation for Worldwide People Power

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Books on corruption, the Estrada presidency out

"EHEM! A Manual for Deepening Involvement in Combating Corruption" will be launched today, 3 p.m., at the Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University.

The manual was prepared and published by the Committee on the Evangelization of Culture of the Philippine Jesuit Province. "Ehem!," written both as a practical guide and a source of reflections and insights, is to be used in seminars and workshops on how different groups in the community can get involved in confronting corrupt practices and values in various settings.

"The Abbreviated Estrada Presidency" by Joaquin Bernas, SJ, is the third in the author's "A Living Constitution" series.

In his concise essays, Bernas, dean of the Ateneo College of Law, tackles issues that arose under the Estrada administration-constitutionalism, separation of the Church and state, nature of emergency powers, peace talks, freedom of expression, human rights, graft and corruption, and of course, impeachment.

To view contents, click on www.ateneopress.com.

To order, call 426-5984 or PowerBooks, Solidaridad, and various National Book Store branches nationwide.

Victor Bella holds painting and crafts workshop

INDUSTRIAL artist Victor Bella, who graduated fine arts in Maastricht Academy of Visual Arts, Holland, will hold a special painting and crafts workshop series .

Painting lessons are offered for kids and adults, focusing on acrylic, oil, watercolor and drawing.

Group courses include artistic candle making with decorative mold making, decorative painting on glass metal and ceramics, flower sculpture, figurine making, silicone rubber mold making, decorative herbal and aromatherapy soap with mold making techniques and decorative transparent soap making. Painting tutorials are also offered.

Visit www.geocities.com/victor_bella for work samples or www.geocities.com/victor_bella/schedule.html for schedule of workshop. Call 834-7678 or (0917) 757-6690.

Forum on women and peace

THE ATENEO Library of Women's Writings (ALIWW) will hold a symposium on "women and peace" today at 3 p.m. at the audiovisual room of the Social Science Building, Ateneo de Manila University in Loyola Heights.

The symposium will be the first of a series of discussions that ALIWW has lined up on issues that affect women.

Clinical psychologist Dr. Lourdes A. Carandang, peace activist Risa Hontiveros Baraquel, and journalist Samira Ali Gutoc will compose the panel of speakers. Dr. Emma Porio will be the moderator.

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GERRY and Vikki Aberin in front of Galleria Ilustracion

GUESTS at the opening: Roland Redoble, actress Beth Tamayo, Dr. Henry Hermogenes Jarin, Dr. Amelia Jarin, Susan Chin, Al Crisostomo, and the officiating priests

Art gallery expands to democratize art

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

THE ART business is not exactly in the pink of health, but to Gerry and Vikki Aberin, owners of Galleria Ilustracion on the third floor of SM City North Edsa, the business thrives best under stress, because it is during troubled times that people seek solace in art.

The husband-and-wife partnership, with eight years of buying and selling art behind them, debunks the woes made by colleagues and competitors. The Aberins have not only done well in the business, but have expanded and renovated Ilustracion, with brand-new stocks of art pieces by leading contemporary Filipino artists.

Joining a crowded field (there are nearly 50 galleries now in Metro Manila alone), they knew they faced a market of consumers with little use for art. The SM mogul's son, Harley Sy, had told them so when they got the nod to open the gallery years.ago.

This particular SM branch mainly caters to provincial clients, people predisposed to buying only what they really need most, such as food, clothes and a little entertainment.

But Gerry had taken bigger risks in the past and was undaunted. He knew that big things must start small.

He recalls they started out buying modest works from Tanay artists like Mar Vivas, Manny Cincuenco and Raul Patindol. It was only later that, with a growing clientele, they started buying from the more prominent artists that they now carry.

The Aberins know the pulse of the market. They have bonded with buyers, such as the *hacienderos* from nearby provinces, the fishpond owners from Malabon, the entrepreneurs with thriving businesses, the emerging class of professionals like doctors and technocrats.

When Ilustracion was blessed and inaugurated on June 30, the gallery space swarmed with longtime clients and new buyers.

That night, what I saw was a crowd obviously much more at ease with themselves—doctors, businessmen, even *artistas* now in hibernation—enjoying to the hilt the sumptuous pica-pica being served by Dulcinea, the live music by sax player Vince Lahorra, and the sketching sessions on the spot by a group of artists.

Also enjoying themselves were artists Hermes Alegre, Greg Bolanos, Angel Cacnio, Popoy Cusi, Caloy Gabuco, Robbie Nubla, Omi Reyes, Fidel Sarmiento.

A number of the ladies gamely took part in the sketching session, sitting before the artist amid a crowd of passersby.

As the night wore on, many of the guests started to leave, bringing with them their chosen pieces duly paid for, while others were still making reservations.

The artists, though tired and weary from the three-hour session, looked doubly pleased at having shown their dexterity under such abnormal conditions, and gratified at having made some sale on the side.

Gerry and Vikki were still in their element, mingling with the remaining guests, saying adieu to the artists and making last-minute transactions.

That was just the first night of the gallery, and whoever says that the art business today is far from thriving should learn a thing or two from the Aberins.

E-mail author at gdormiendo.yahoo.com

MICHAEL Cacnio, son of artist Angel Cacnio, with actress Beth Tamayo and Roland Redoble, chair of The Columbary

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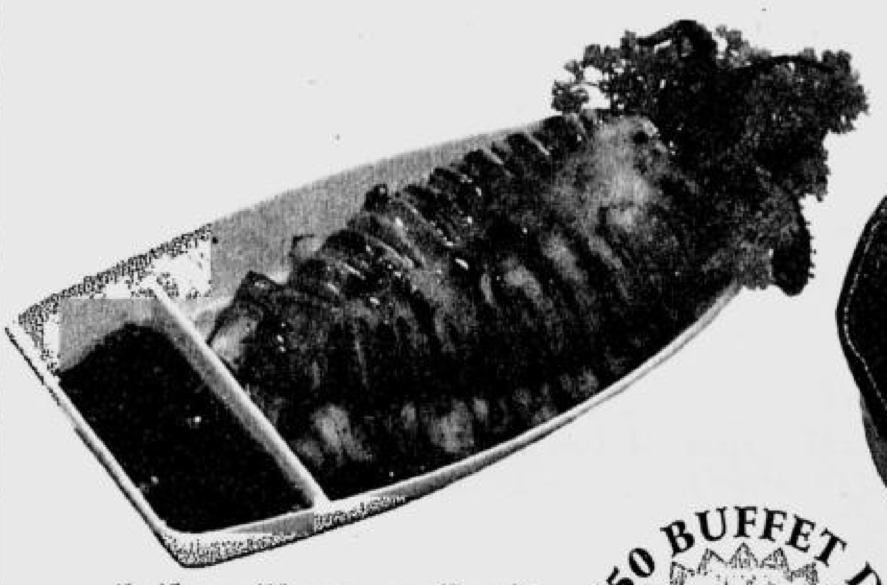

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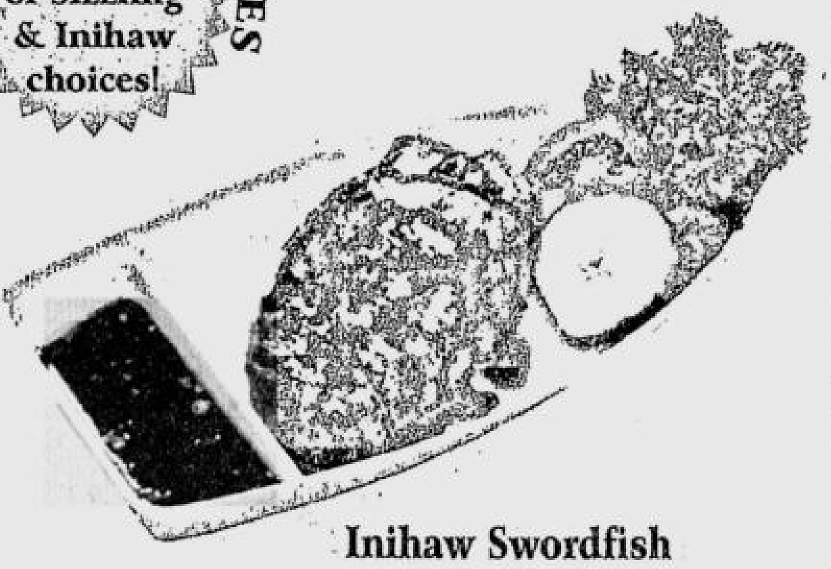

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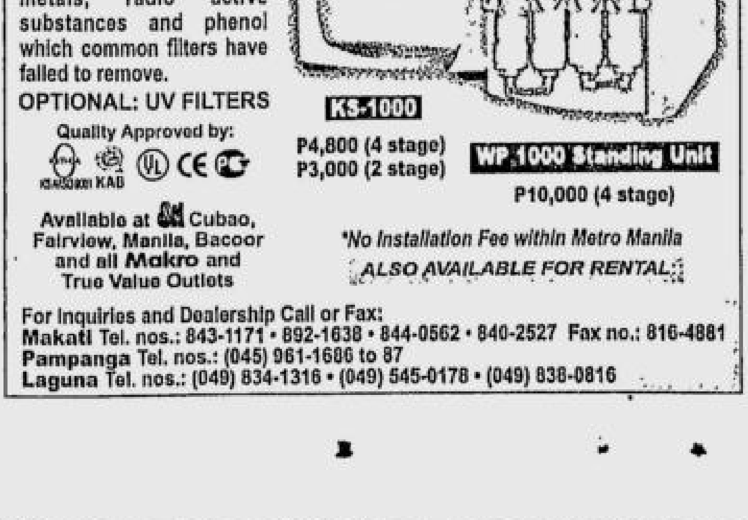

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LIFESTYLE

When the arts triumph in unlikely places

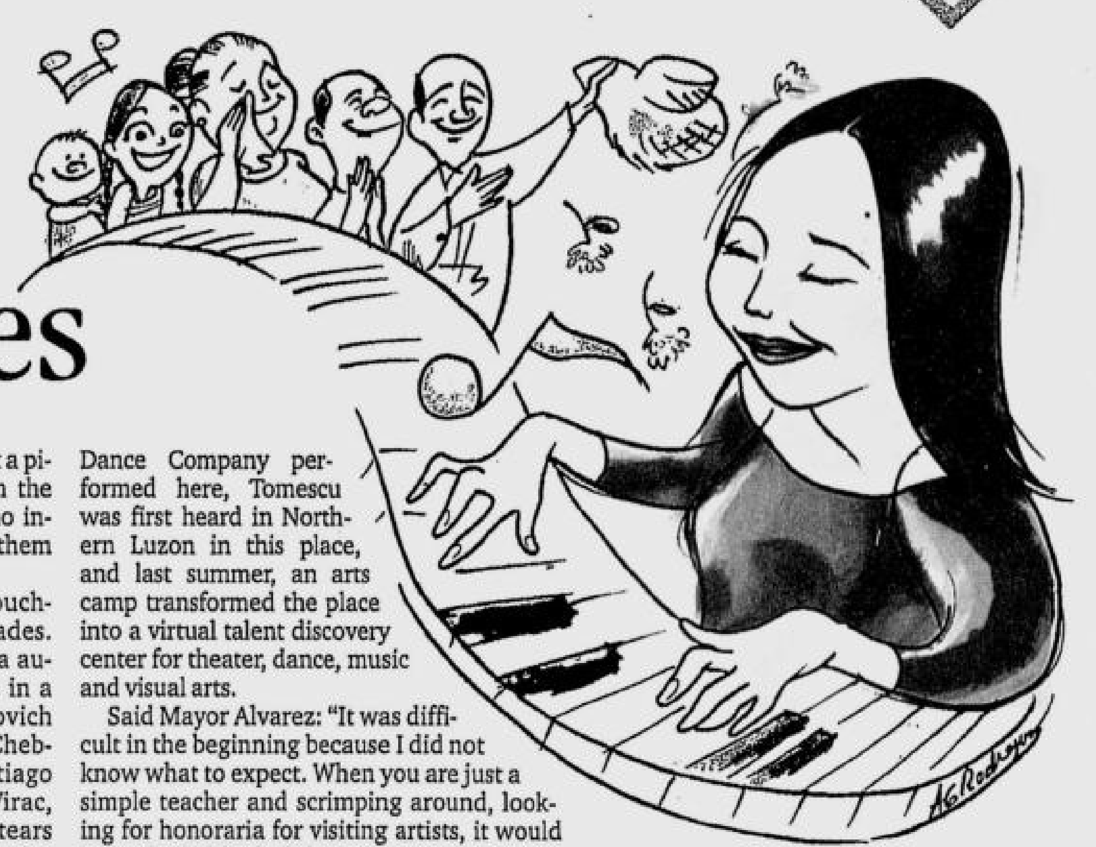

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Coming soon: Cecile Licad at Science City in Nueva Ecija

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

USED to glittering gala nights and standing ovations at the CCP, at the Manila Met when it was still alive, and at the Philamlife Theater, among others, I thought I'd never witness a more satisfying night than that usually spent with elegant and bejewelled concert-goers in Manila.

Because whether you like it or not, you enjoy sipping wines in barong amid the expensive decor at the CCP lobby (for example: the New York Philharmonic night, the Philippine-Italian night with reception at Silangan, and, even 20 years earlier, the "Tosca" night of the San Francisco Opera starring no less than Placido Domingo and Eva Marton).

In 1988, I dared bring Cecile Licad in the provinces with her equally celebrated cellist-husband. The pianist remarked, while busy signing autographs, "It's so refreshing to play in the countryside minus the whiff of expensive perfumes."

What she was saying was that the sight of simple folks rather than social butterflies in the audience was welcome, because there she felt the pure hearts and minds of music lovers in the provinces.

A friend told me that what I was doing—bringing first-rate talents outside Metro Manila—was reminiscent of "Fitzcarraldo," about an impresario introducing opera in the Amazon jungle.

Aware of my obsession, filmmaker Marilou Diaz-Abaya gifted me with a book titled "The Piano Tuner" by Daniel Mason. It is about a piano tuner transporting a baby grand in the forest of Burma to a country doctor who intends to placate the rebels by making them listen to Bach.

I have since then harvested more touching concert sights in the past two decades. Like the sight of super-attentive Isabela audiences listening to cellist Angela Lee in a peerless rendition of the Shostakovich sonata; Russian violinist Anastacia Chebotareva playing a Mozart sonata in Santiago City, also in Isabela; simple folks in Virac, Catanduanes, dazzled and reduced to tears by the performance of violinist Alexandru Tomescu; and, late last year, a euphoric audience in Tuguegarao, Cagayan, giving Licad five standing ovations in one night in a full-packed Mother Madeleine Hall at St. Paul University.

As I brace for another Licad national tour in August, I found myself in Central Luzon inspecting possible venues in a town called Science City of Muñoz in Nueva Ecija. It is a place where all kinds of scientific research related to agriculture (rice, corn, even carabao) are done.

No stranger

What I did not foresee was that this place was actually no stranger to the arts. When Mayor Nestor Alvarez was still teaching at the Central Luzon State University (CLSU), he brought in several musical ensembles, among them the UP Concert Chorus and the Las Piñas Boys Choir.

When he became mayor three years ago, the place was transformed like a mini-cultural center. Tenor Nolyn Cabahug sang here, the Philippine Ballet Theater and the Bayanihan Dance Company performed here, Tomescu was first heard in Northern Luzon in this place, and last summer, an arts camp transformed the place into a virtual talent discovery center for theater, dance, music and visual arts.

Said Mayor Alvarez: "It was difficult in the beginning because I did not know what to expect. When you are just a simple teacher and scrimping around, looking for honoraria for visiting artists, it would be unthinkable if I didn't get any reaction. But the people of Muñoz loved it. Their level of cultural awareness has improved over the years, and now they want no less than Cecile Licad live in the Science City of Muñoz."

The mayor said it was the enthusiastic audience reaction that kept him going. "When they saw their first ballet, heard their first operatic aria and their first orchestral concert, they wanted more. My main concerns are the teachers and the students and even simple folks from different barangays. I am supporting existing theater, dance and choral groups. I firmly believe that if these arts exposures continue, someone in Muñoz will pursue a career in the arts and will be famous. In my term, economic thrusts go with cultural uplift. I cannot imagine my town hooked on technology and not knowing a bit about the arts. In the future, I hope our town earns not just the name Science City of Muñoz but a cradle of the arts as well."

If plans don't change, Licad will be heard for the first time with an orchestra outside Metro Manila in this place called Science City.

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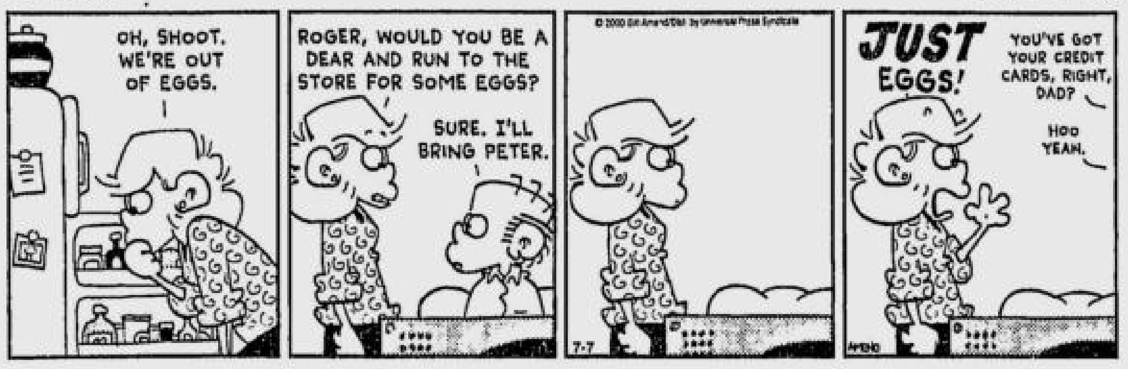
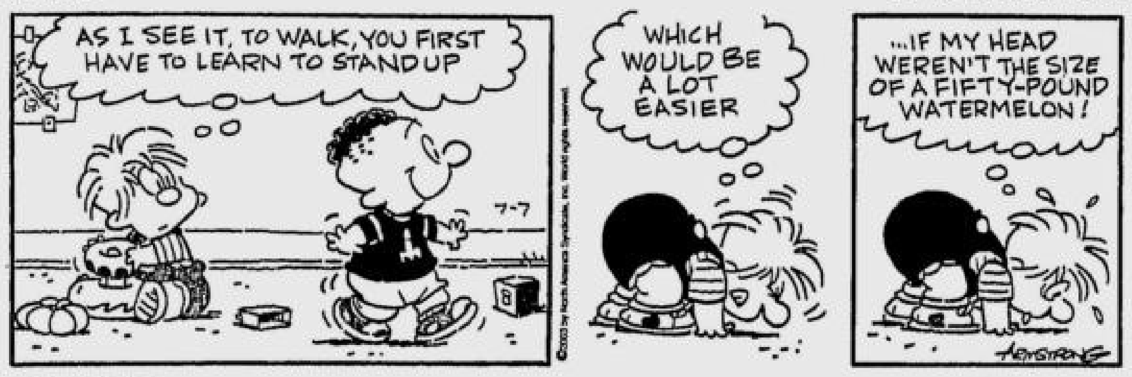
Per DTI-NCR Permit No 1761, series of 2003
*Approved by DTI-NCR

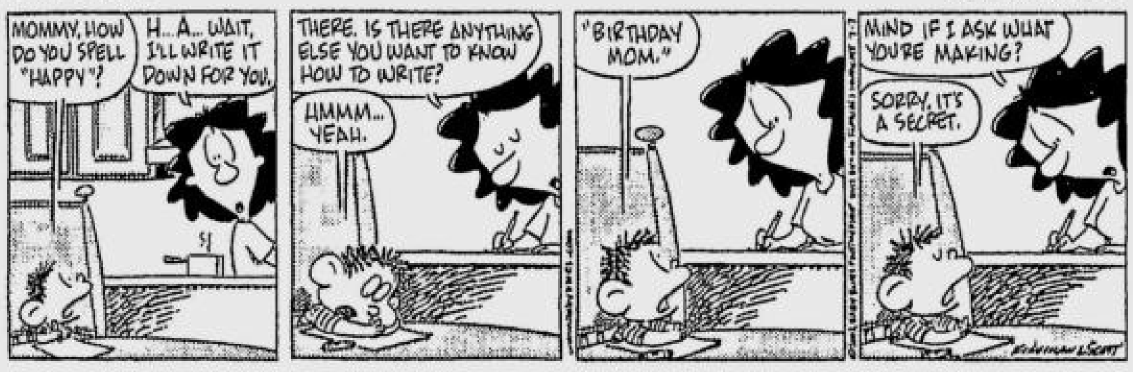
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


OH, SHOOT. WE'RE OUT OF EGGS.
ROGER, WOULD YOU BE A DEAR AND RUN TO THE STORE FOR SOME EGGS?
SURE. I'LL BRING PETER.
7-7
JUST EGGS!
YOU'VE GOT YOUR CREDIT CARDS, RIGHT, DAD?
HOO YEAH.

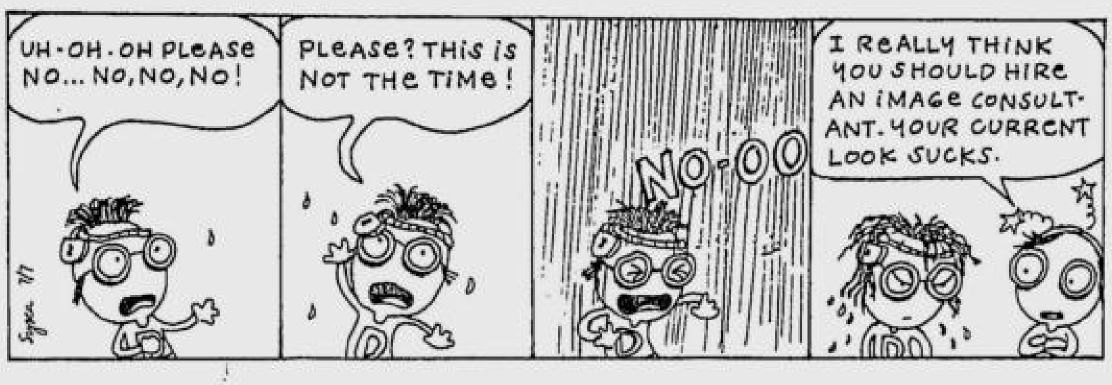
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


AS I SEE IT, TO WALK, YOU FIRST HAVE TO LEARN TO STAND UP
7-7
WHICH WOULD BE A LOT EASIER
...IF MY HEAD WEREN'T THE SIZE OF A FIFTY-POUND WATERMELON!
ARMSTRONG

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


MOMMY, HOW DO YOU SPELL "HAPPY"?
H... A... WAIT, I'LL WRITE IT DOWN FOR YOU.
THERE. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW TO WRITE?
HMMM... YEAH.
"BIRTHDAY MOM."
MIND IF I ASK WHAT YOU'RE MAKING?
SORRY, IT'S A SECRET.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


UH-OH. OH PLEASE NO... NO, NO, NO!
PLEASE? THIS IS NOT THE TIME!
NO-OO
I REALLY THINK YOU SHOULD HIRE AN IMAGE CONSULTANT. YOUR CURRENT LOOK SUCKS.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are truthful and open with others. Because of your sensitivity and your keen imagination, you are extremely creative. Your life has many unpredictable twists and turns that invariably bring you a deeper understanding of your world. The year ahead is full of exciting, new experiences as you begin a new cycle of development. **Birthdate of:** Michelle Kwan, figure skater; Ringo Starr, musician; Cree Summer, animation voice/actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Do not make plans or important agreements with partners and close friends today. Whatever you initiate will not achieve its objective. Wait till tomorrow.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): If you are at work today, expect shortages and delays. Don't be surprised if some staff members are sick or do not show up at all. Just cope as best you can.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a wonderfully creative day for you! Your thinking is outside-the-box. However, this is a very poor day to shop or buy anything. Wait until tomorrow.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Whatever you do today, you can expect glitches and delays. This is not a good day to make important decisions, especially about family matters. Too much is simply up in the air.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You feel as if you don't know if you're coming or going today. That's OK. This is a squirrelly kind of day, full of uncertainty for everyone.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Definitely do not shop for anything other than food today. Even then, just get a few things. Important purchases will likely have to be returned later. (Trust me.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Do not initiate important decisions today. Anything new that you start today will need to be changed or modified later. It is hard to reach your objective today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Try to take care of normal, routine matters today. Don't start this week off feeling gung-ho and ready to conquer the world. Go slowly and carefully today.

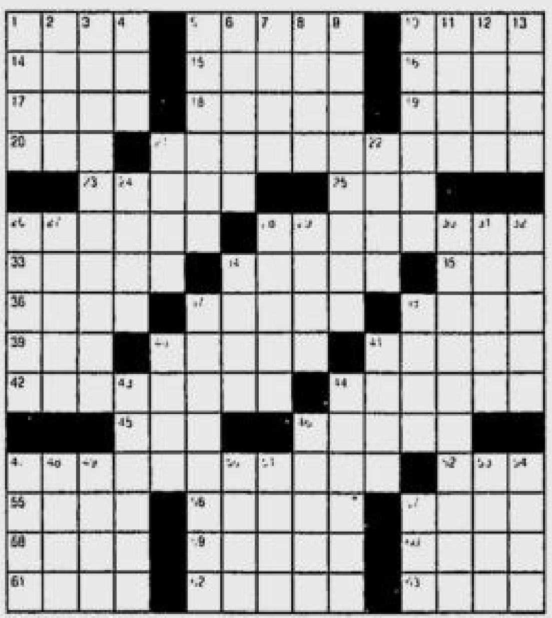
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You cannot count on promises that friends or groups make to you today. Although they might be well-meaning, something will come in from left field to change everything.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): If your boss or someone important asks you to do something today, wait until tomorrow to agree (if you can). This is a very poor day to make important decisions or commitments.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Double-check travel plans and matters connected with publishing and the media. This is not a good day to buy a ticket to travel or to make a reservation.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Think twice before you decide to give anything to anyone today. You might find that later, you regret your decision. Wait until tomorrow.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Mark Moldowsky
Huntington, NY

7/7/03

ACROSS

1 The Georgia Peach
5 Temporary paper money
10 "Goldberg Variations" composer
14 Puccini tune
15 Barton or Bow
16 Hodgepodge
17 Encircling route
18 Wertmuller and others
19 Sign of sorrow
20 Costa del _
21 Spacey's meat?
23 Gape
25 Ashen
26 Colombian capital
28 Disciples
33 Emulate Cicero
34 Bailey or Buck
35 Mine find
36 Bologna eight
37 Unyielding
38 Polluted haze
39 Definite article
40 Become apparent
41 Make a mistake
42 Cries of adoration
44 Broad comedies
45 Halloween cry
46 Money-grubber
47 Skelton's fasteners?
52 TV network
55 Shaving-cream additive
56 Audacity
57 Missile shelter
58 Highland valley
59 Weepy one
60 Exploitive one
61 Bridge hand
62 Atlanta university
63 Ray of light

DOWN

1 Taxis
2 Sandwich cookie
3 Clinton's entryways?
4 Have a turn at the plate
5 Eyeball covering
6 "Books of Blood" author Barker
7 Rajah's wife
8 Teheran land
9 Countersign
10 Australian bay
11 Actor Guinness
12 Aloha on the Arno
13 Bugle
21 "Kiss Me __"
22 Redhead Lucille
24 Dorothy's canine
26 Kiosk
27 Correct: pref.
28 Protection
29 Brother of Abel
30 Clancy's voyage?
31 Wear away
32 Certain lilies
34 Pocket bread
37 Cede a claim
38 Term fit for a king
40 Haughty one
41 Conn. neighbor
43 Out to lunch
44 Fancy dress
46 One on the rise
47 Excessive anger
48 Miss Cinders of comics
49 Performs
50 Type of insurance
51 The Magi, e.g.
53 Entreaty
54 Average
57 Deli hero

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

D	I	S	P	L	A	C	E	S	■	R	E	M	I	T
I	N	U	R	E	M	E	N	T	■	A	L	O	N	E
A	N	N	E	T	Y	L	E	R	■	F	I	R	S	T
P	A	G	E	S	■	E	M	U	■	T	O	R	C	H
E	T	O	N	■	T	R	I	T	E	■	T	I	R	E
R	E	D	■	L	A	Y	E	T	T	E	■	S	I	R
■	■	■	D	O	N	■	S	E	E	M	T	O	B	E
H	O	P	I	E	S	T	■	D	R	A	I	N	E	D
I	G	L	E	S	I	A	S	■	N	I	P	■	■	■
B	E	E	■	S	E	N	E	G	A	L	■	H	A	P
R	E	A	R	■	S	T	A	L	L	■	S	O	A	R
O	A	S	E	S	■	A	L	E	■	S	H	A	R	I
A	R	U	B	A	■	L	A	N	G	U	E	D	O	C
S	C	R	U	M	■	U	N	D	E	R	L	I	N	E
T	H	E	S	E	■	S	T	A	T	E	L	E	S	S

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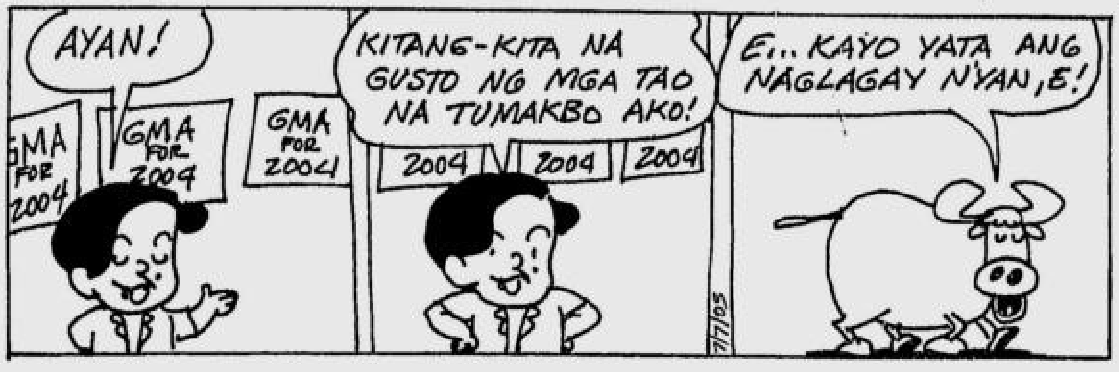
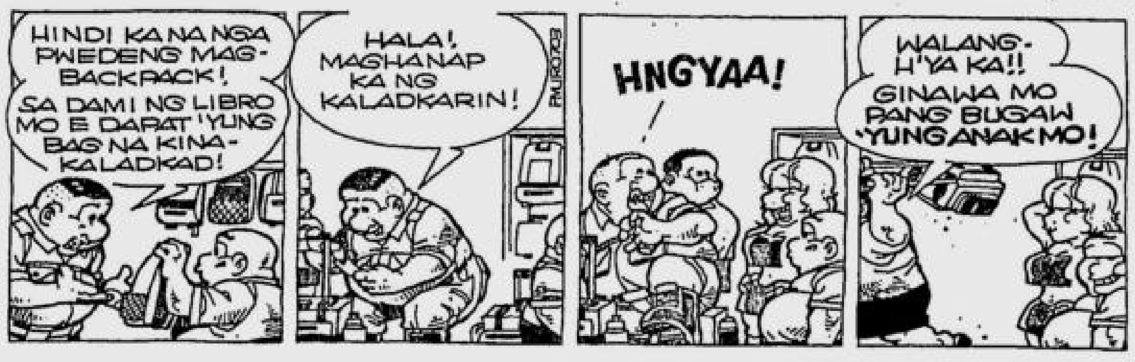
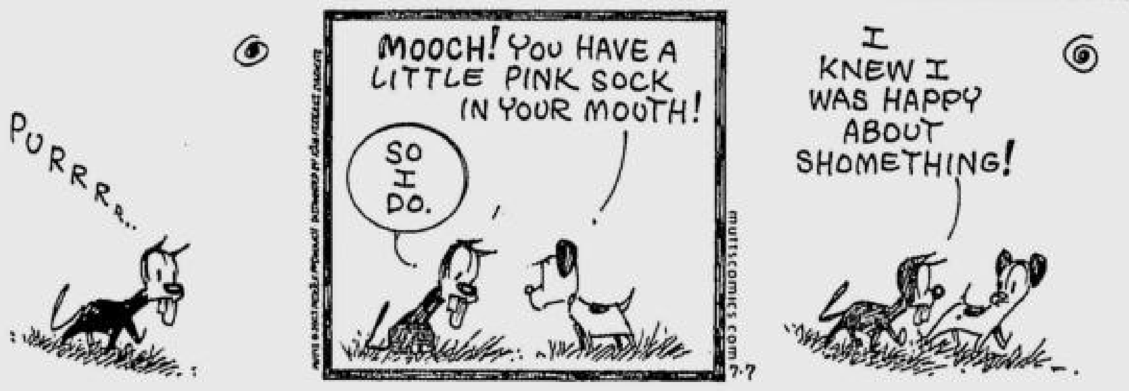
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


AYAN!
GMA FOR 2004
GMA FOR 2004
GMA FOR 2004
KITANG-KITA NA GUSTO NG MGA TAO NA TUMAKBO AKO!
2004
2004
2004
7/7/03
E... KAYO YATA ANG NAGLAGAY N'YAN, E!

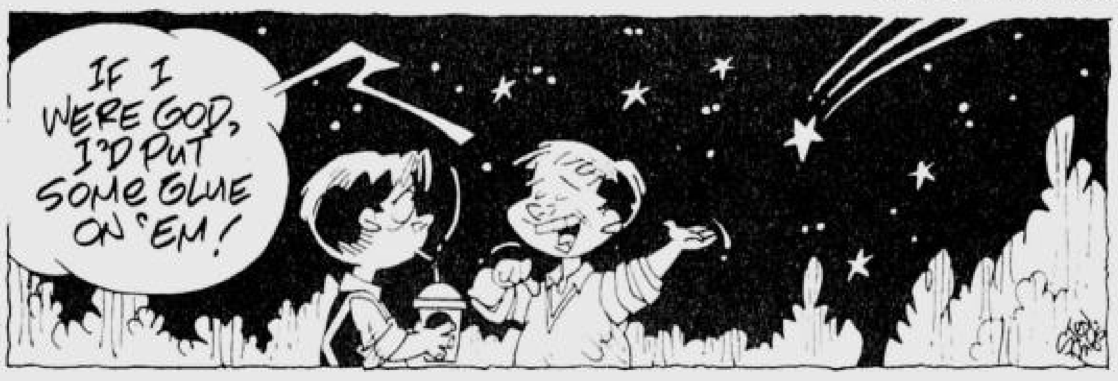
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


HINDI KA NA NGA PWEDENG MAG-BACKPACK! SA DAMI NG LIBRO MO E DAPAT 'YUNG BAG NA KINAKALADKAD!
HALA! MAGHANAP KA NG KALADKARIN!
PMJR07-03
HNGYAA!
WALANG-H'YA KA!! GINAWA MO PANG BUGAW 'YUNG ANAK MO!

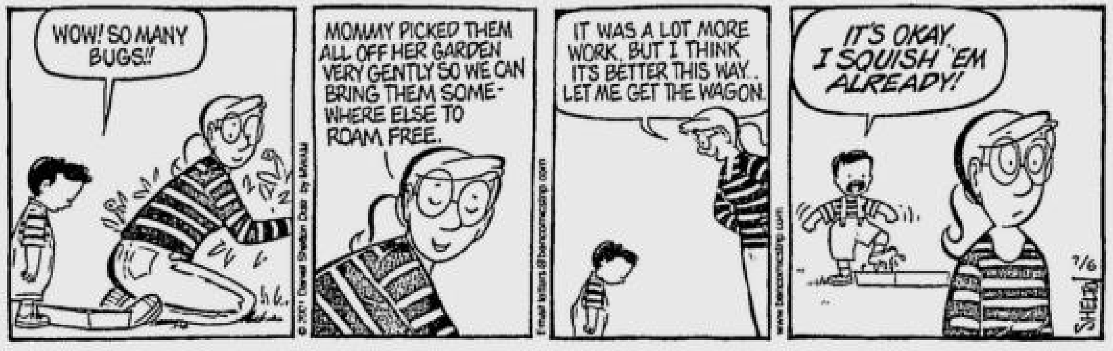
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


PURRRR...
MOOCH! YOU HAVE A LITTLE PINK SOCK IN YOUR MOUTH!
SO I DO.
muttscomics.com
7-7
I KNEW I WAS HAPPY ABOUT SHOMETHING!

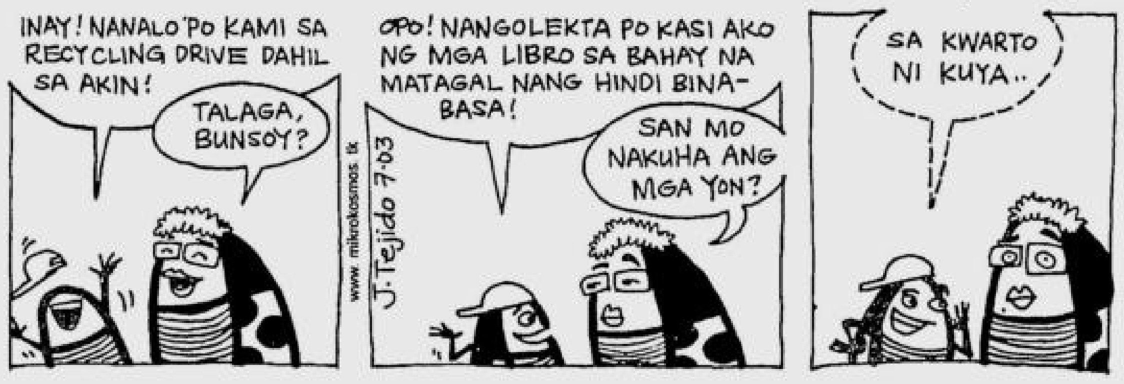
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


IF I WERE GOD, I'D PUT SOME GLUE ON 'EM!

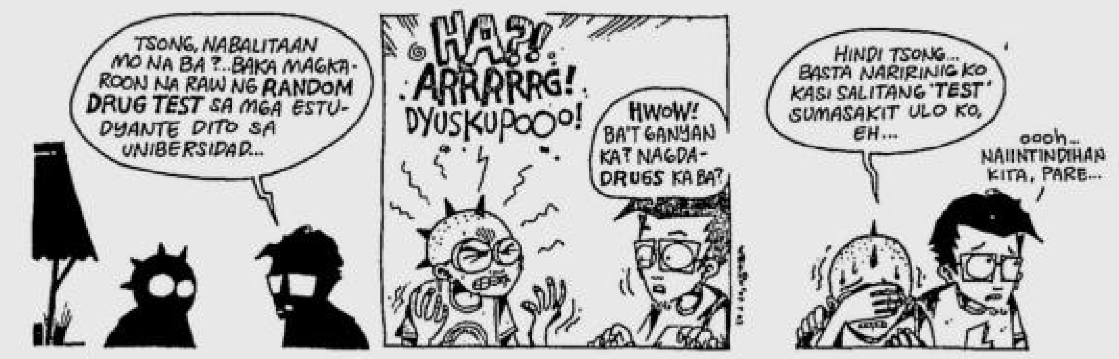
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


WOW! SO MANY BUGS!!
MOMMY PICKED THEM ALL OFF HER GARDEN VERY GENTLY SO WE CAN BRING THEM SOMEWHERE ELSE TO ROAM FREE.
IT WAS A LOT MORE WORK, BUT I THINK IT'S BETTER THIS WAY.. LET ME GET THE WAGON.
IT'S OKAY. I SQUISH 'EM ALREADY!
7/6
SHELTON

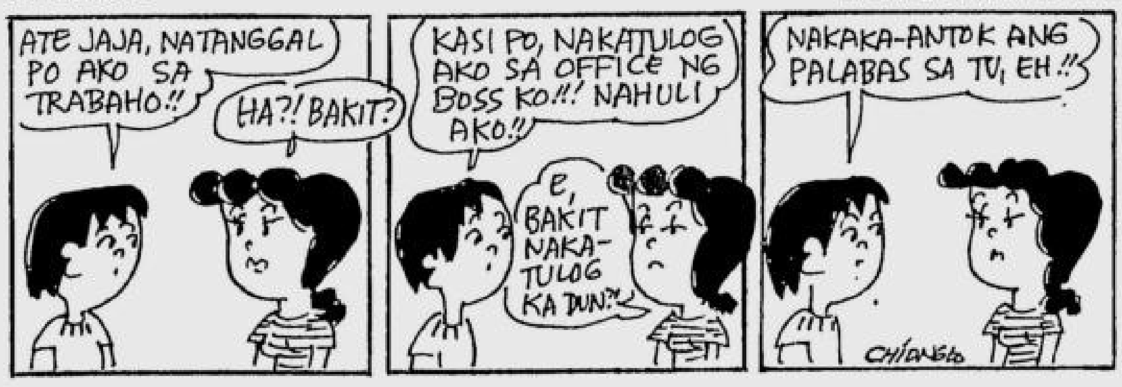
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


INAY! NANALO PO KAMI SA RECYCLING DRIVE DAHIL SA AKIN!
TALAGA, BUNSOY?
www.mikrokosmos.tk
J. Tejido 7-03
OPO! NANGOLEKTA PO KASI AKO NG MGA LIBRO SA BAHAY NA MATAGAL NANG HINDI BINABASA!
SAN MO NAKUHA ANG MGA YON?
SA KWARTO NI KUYA..

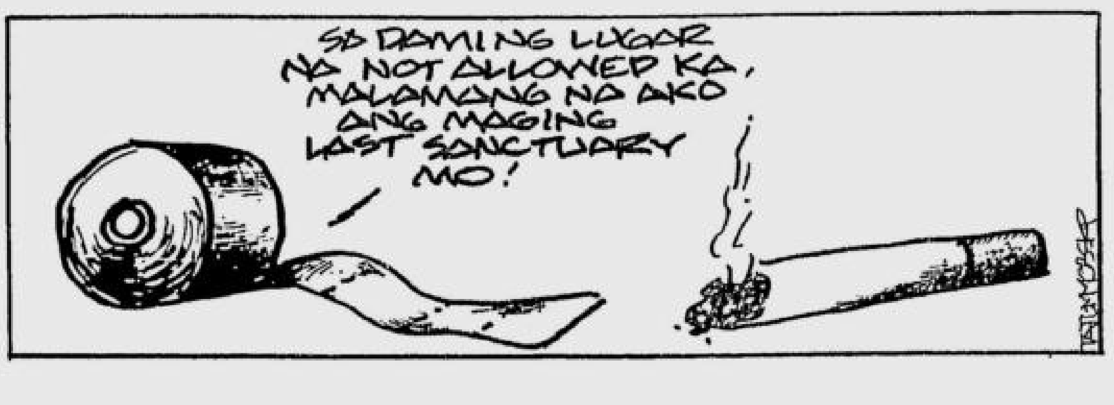
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


TSONG, NABALITAAN MO NA BA?..BAKA MAGKAROON NA RAW NG RANDOM DRUG TEST SA MGA ESTUDYANTE DITO SA UNIBERSIDAD...
HA?! ARRRRRG! DYUSKUPOOO!
HWOW! BA'T GANYAN KAT NAGDA-DRUGS KA BA?
HINDI TSONG... BASTA NARIRINIG KO KASI SALITANG 'TEST' SUMASAKIT ULO KO, EH...
oooh... NAIINTINDIHAN KITA, PARE...

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ATE JAJA, NATANGGAL PO AKO SA TRABAHO!!
HA?! BAKIT?
KASI PO, NAKATULOG AKO SA OFFICE NG BOSS KO!!! NAHULI AKO!!
E, BAKIT NAKATULOG KA DUN?!
NAKAKA-ANTOK ANG PALABAS SA TV, EH!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SA DAMI NG LUGAR NA NOT ALLOWED KA, MALAMANG NA AKO ANG MAGING LAST SANCTUARY MO!
TATUMOBER

Musical summer solstice with Greg Zuniega

By Ophelia A. Dimalanta
Contributor

TYPHOONS, monsoon rains, rising floodwaters notwithstanding, there are elemental waters essential to our dehydrated workaday world. Feeling drained from the stress and strain of daily routine, Josie Pasricha, Zeny Elepano and I drove over to PR lady Joan Orendain's penthouse in Malate last June 24, summer solstice. We huffed and puffed six flights up, finally heaving ourselves exhausted into Joan's cozy candlelit haven, ready for some body-and-soul nourishment.

Which came first in the form of a gastronomic feast. Paving the way for the Maestro's coming was lawyer Sim Zuniega, the Maestro's spitting image, talented in his own way as a violin player.

Finally, he materialized from the doorway, concert pianist Greg Zuniega, whose renown had spread far and wide, since he had performed in major cities in Japan and in the US (more recently, he performed during the opening of the 2003 French Spring in Manila, the annual French cultural festival).

The musical feast began with interlarded brief intros to the selections. Beethoven's Sonata Quasi Una Fantasia, more popularly known as Moonlight Sonata, is an amateur's favorite fare since the initial measures are made up of deceptively simple and somber triplets, which during the performance, gradually peaked into such percussive grandeur because of the pianist's dexterity, its pensive allegretto picking up speed and intensity into one overpowering presto agitato.

Streaming moonlight

Of a sudden, moonlight was streaming into the room as we all began to hear and see it in the music flooding forth from the piano keys, as Beethoven himself visualized—more than heard—it ages back, ushering in the era of romantic individualism.

Debussy's Claire de Lune was quite something else. Debussy the impressionist is the tonal sorcerer evoking the light of the moon through initial plaintive halting notes, later flowing into fluid runs approximating the lyrical effusions of Paul Verlaine whose poem inspired this composition. Verlaine is himself an impressionist during the age of the decadent French fin de siecle poets of the 19th century. Impressionism in both music and poetry is usually frowned at by the hardened realist on account of its sometimes overly precious and refined tonalities.

Versatile contemporary American composer Aaron Copland composed El Salon de Mexico, a piano transposition from an orchestral piece, which was arranged by the equally renowned Leonard Bernstein. This performance was an exuberant and violently energetic dance music, concluding in vibrantly tumultuous chords. In fact, the whole composition was one spate of fiery Iberian passion.

The finale piece was Andante Spianato and Grand Polonaise Brillante. by Chopin, two compositions seamlessly blended into one tour de force where Chopin's characteristic poetry was made to break into breathless passionate fits, brilliantly handled by Greg with his own brand of intense romanticism.

Encore

When the guests begged for an encore, Zuniega played a fabulous Roger Williams' arrangement of Autumn Leaves, the right hand capturing the descending rippling notes, recreating the image of falling leaves, the entire oeuvre lyrically replicating the season's gentle hush.

The feast ended but the resonance and wonder trailed on. In his performances, Greg would enjoin his audience: allow me to engage your imagination through this musical journey... listen to what the music says and believe in the Filipino artist—all the while affirming the Creator's goodness.

It was indeed the Creator's intimate hand upon us that evening of music appreciation as organized by Joan, bless her, and through the Maestro's gift of music, we, after the last note drifted away, floated from one enchanted realm down to the world outside, back to the city's din.

It had been not only a shower of soul-drenching grace, but a downpour, and we were refreshed, ready for the next day's onslaught. We experienced Rilke's "dark interval between notes," the dark pause even as the notes quiver on within us, in a language that goes beyond language, in an evening of beautiful chords and camaraderie.

PIANIST Greg Zuniega

Exhibit celebrates National Artists

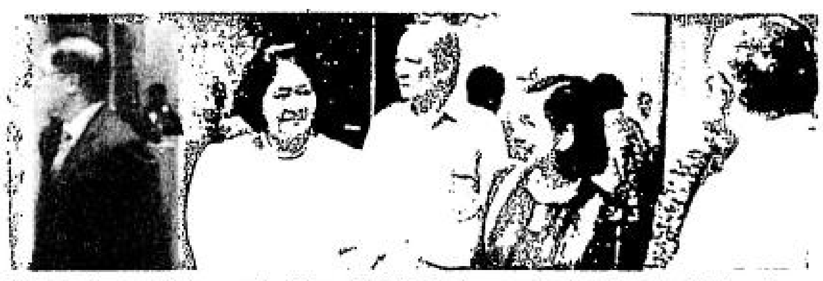
THE NATIONAL Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) has launched the National Artists Exhibition Series 2003 to celebrate the contributions of the Philippines' National Artists to their respective art forms and to nation-building.

The launching ceremonies were led by Boots Anson-Roa, head of the NCCA Committee on Cinema; NCCA executive director Maria Fina C. Yonzon; NCCA chair Evelyn B. Pantig; Cultural Center of the Philippines Baltazar N. Endriga; National Artist for Music Andrea O. Veneracion; National Artist for Visual Arts Arturo R. Luz, as well as Gawad Manlilikha ng Bayan awardee Samoan Suleiman.

The exhibit will continue through the year with a set of modules with the theme "Louas/ Luwas: Cultural Tension and the Works of Our National Artists".

Modules include Film (July 7-27), Theater (Aug. 4-24), Visual Arts (Sept. 1-28), Architecture and Dance (Oct. 6-26), Literature (Nov. 3-23), and Music (Dec. 1-28).

The exhibit is at the NCCA Gallery, NCCA Bldg., 633 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila. Call 527-2192 local 508 or 527-2209, or e-mail info@ncca.gov.ph



CCP chairman Baltazar Endriga, NCCA chairman Evelyn Pantig, National Artist for Visual Arts Arturo Luz, NCCA executive director Maria Fina Yonzon and SCD head Rod Cornejo at the exhibit

FEU presents 'Romeo and Juliet'

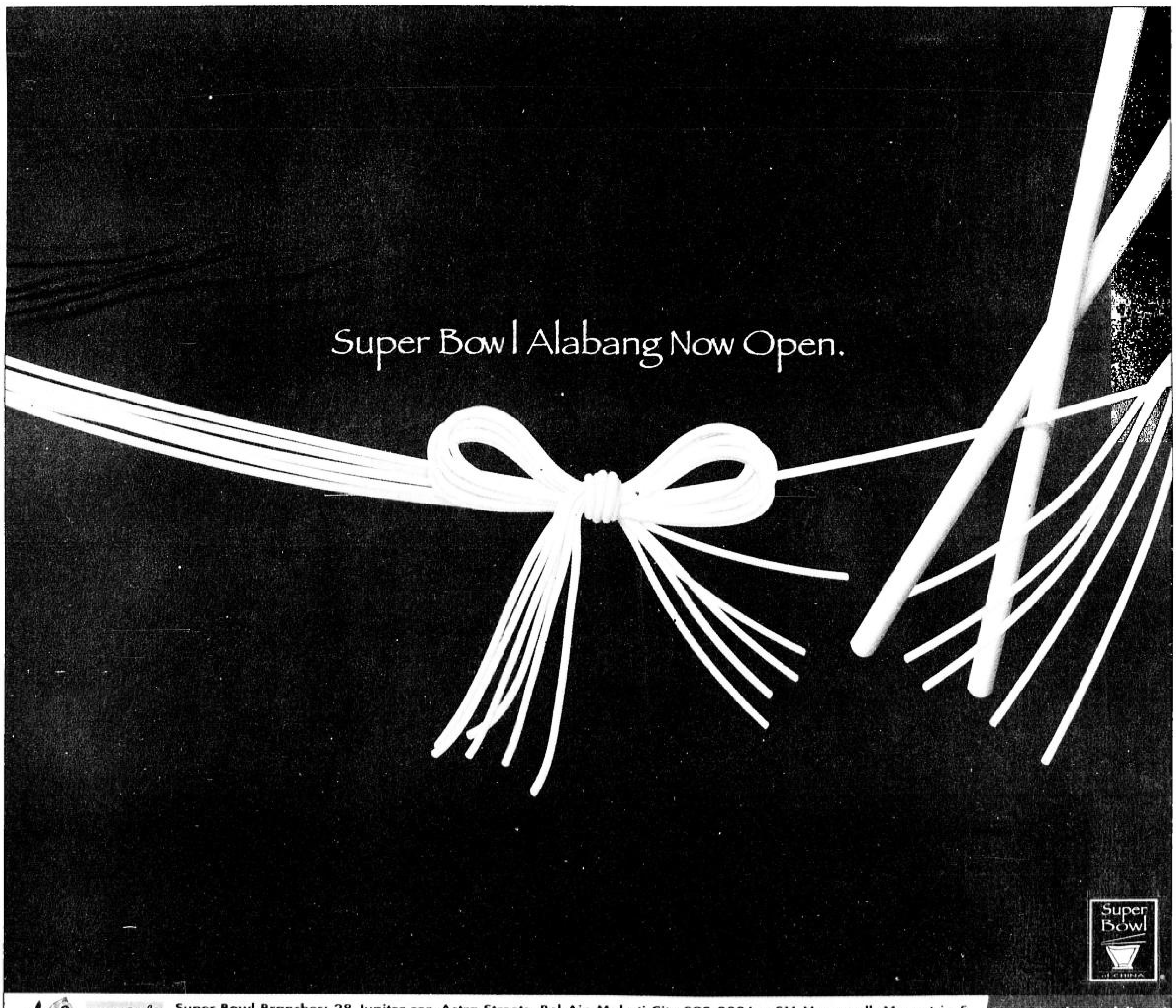
FAR Eastern University, through its President's Committee on Culture, will present the Philippine Ballet Theater rendition of "Romeo and Juliet" by Sergei Prokofiev, based on William Shakespeare's play, on July 11, 3:15 p.m. at the FEU Auditorium. Admission is free.

With Thomas Pazik as choreographer and Gener A. Caringal as artistic director, the ballet features Cathee Lee-Roslovtsev, Ranilo Jaynario, Lea Baduria and Lucas Jacinto, with guest artists Guada de Leon, Mylene Saldaña, Rosalie Carreon-Zarate, Tony Bisenio, June Dalit and Conrad Tiolengco.

The PBT is the resident ballet company of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. It has conducted international tours in the USA, Mexico, Spain, Morocco, Canada, Singapore and Japan, presenting a mixed repertoire of Filipino and Western ballet pieces.

Ambassador Alfonso Yuchengco is the honorary chairman of PBT; Jose Mari Chan, chairman; and Antonio Tambunting Jr., president. The artistic council has National Artist Leonor Orosa-Goquingco as honorary member, Eddie Elejar as chairman, and Inday Gaston-Mañosa as executive director.

Call Michael Victoria at 736-4897 or 735-5621 loc. 256.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BANGON NGAYON

Promo Period: July 1 - October 18, 2003

Mag-Nestlé Almusal

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1. Write your name, address, signature, and the promo title, "MAG-NESTLE ALMUSAL, GISING MILYONARYO 2," on a genuine label, foil and boxtop of participating Nestlé products. Entries should be clean and at least 3/4 of its original size. Entries which do not conform to the requirements and mechanics of the promo shall be automatically disqualified.

2. Drop entries in designated drop boxes found in supermarkets and groceries nationwide. In order to qualify, entries must be dropped in the draw area where the residence of the participant is located as written in the entries. All entries that are dropped in draw areas outside of a participant's residence as indicated in the entries shall be automatically disqualified.

3. Entries received after cut-off date and non-winning entries will qualify for the succeeding draws including the grand draw.

4. A consumer may win only once in every draw.

5. Winners will officially be notified via mail, with instructions on how to claim their prizes. Winners will only be considered as official once they receive their notification letters. Prizes not claimed within 60 days after receipt of letter will be forfeited upon approval of BFAD.

6. Winners should personally claim their prize. They should present their notification letter plus two valid IDs such as driver's license, passport, company, or school ID.

7. If winner is ill or physically incapable to claim his/her prize, he/she may send a representative with the following documents:

a. Letter of Authorization
b. Notification Letter
c. 2 valid IDs

8. The draws will be supervised by an authorized representative from the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD).

9. Schedule of draws, areas, deadline of entries & prizes are as follows:

Draw Dates	Deadline of Entries	Area	No. of Winners	Prize (Tax-free)
1st Preliminary Draw				
Aug 8	Aug 1	GMA	40	₱ 25,000 each
		Central Luzon	10	
		North Luzon	10	
		South Luzon 1	10	
		South Luzon 2	10	
		East Visayas	10	
		West Visayas	10	
		North Mindanao	10	
		South Mindanao	10	
2nd Preliminary Draw				
Sept 3	Aug 27	North Luzon	1	₱ 500,000 each
Sept 6	Aug 30	Central Luzon	1	
Sept 7	Aug 31	East Visayas	1	
Sept 10	Sept 3	South Luzon 2	1	
Sept 13	Sept 6	South Luzon 1	1	
Sept 11	Sept 4	South Mindanao	1	
Sept 14	Sept 7	North Mindanao	1	
Sept 20	Sept 13	West Visayas	1	
Sept 21	Sept 14	GMA	3	

Names of winners will be announced during the Gising Milyonaryo 2 Mall Shows to be held in selected areas. Watch out for the schedules!

Draw Dates	Deadline of Entries	Area	No. of Winners	Prize (Tax-free)
Grand Draw				
October 18	October 4	GMA	4	₱1,000,000 each
		North Luzon	1	
		Central Luzon	1	
		South Luzon 1	1	
		South Luzon 2	1	
		East Visayas	1	
		West Visayas	1	
		North Mindanao	1	
		South Mindanao	1	

10. Employees of Nestlé Philippines, Inc., its advertising and promotional agencies, packaging suppliers, service contractors, distributors, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity and affinity are automatically disqualified to join the promotion.

11. The organizer's decision, in concurrence with the BFAD, is FINAL.

PARTICIPATING NESTLÉ PRODUCTS

MILO • MILO RTD • NIDO (Fortified 1+, Prebio Plus 3+, Calci-N 6+, Full Cream, RTD) • BEAR BRAND (Instant, 1+) • NESLAC • NESTLÉ CALCIUM PLUS • NESCAFÉ (Classic, 3-in-1, Frothé, Gold, Decaf) • COFFEE-MATE MAGGI (all products) • NESTLÉ BREAKFAST CEREALS (Koko Krunch, Cornflakes, Trix, Nestlé Fitness, Honey Stars, MILO, Banana Nut Clusters, Honey Gold, Almond Clusters) • NESTLÉ FRUIT SELECTION YOGURT • NESTLÉ 0% FAT HI-CALCIUM YOGURT • NESTLÉ TAHO NESTLÉ COTTAGE CHEESE NESTEA • NESTLÉ LEMONADE • NESTLÉ PURE LIFE • NESVITA • NESTLÉ BABY CEREALS • NESTLÉ RICE MEALS • NESTLÉ CREAM • NESTLÉ ALL-PURPOSE CREAM CARNATION EVAP AND CONDENSADA • CARNATION NON-FAT • LIBERTY CONDENSADA ALPINE EVAP • MILKMAID NESTLÉ PREMIUM MILK • BEAR BRAND STERILIZED • NESTLÉ FRESH MILK • NESTLÉ LOW FAT MILK

"MAG-NESTLÉ ALMUSAL NA! BAKA ISA KA NA SA MGA MAGIGING MILYONARYO!"

BANGON NGAYON

NESCAFÉ
Coffee-mate
NIDO
Nestlé
Calcium Plus
MILO
Koko Krunch
Fresh Milk
Nesvita
Condensada
Taho

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0546 Series of 2003